

Hafa Adai!

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Man resentenced to 10 years in prison for sex abuse. PAGE 3

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75¢

Teen killed in fatal car crash



By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A 19-year-old woman was killed when a vehicle she was driving slammed into a traffic light pole and burst into flames near the Northern Marianas College in As Terlaje on Saturday at midnight.

» **Vehicle engulfed in fire after slamming into traffic light pole**

Shortly before noon on Saturday, the tearful parents of the victim, Soomin Jung, were seen placing flowers at the traffic pole and offering prayers.

The grass in the area was burned. The bottom of the concrete pole had small dents.

Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services spokesman Derek Gersonde said that Jung was See TEEN on Page 4

The mother of 19-year-old Soomin Jung wipes her tears as she and a friend walk away from the traffic light pole, where they placed flowers and offered prayers on Saturday shortly before noon. Jung's vehicle slammed into the traffic light near the Northern Marianas College on Saturday at midnight and a fire ensued, trapping her inside. Jung was said to be coming from the hospital and was on her way to a friend's house in As Lito when the accident happened.

Engine failure causes islandwide blackout

By BEA CABRERA
bea_cabrera@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

An oil splash monitoring system failure on one engine at Power Plant 1 was behind the islandwide power outage that started at 2:35am last Saturday.

In a statement last Saturday, the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. said that re-energizing the entire island of Saipan was done in phases due to some technical problems.

Residents who were sound asleep woke up to the sweltering heat as the

See ENGINE on Page 4

'Ice' intercepted from Tinian passenger

» **4 others arrested, including woman who posed as first lady**

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Customs K-9 officers managed to intercept crystal methamphetamine

or "ice" on an inbound flight from Tinian. Four others, including a woman who allegedly posed as first lady Diann Torres, were arrested for various criminal offenses on Saipan last week.

Tara Marie Matagolai Namauleg, 30, was arrested for importation of contraband and illegal possession of

See ICE on Page 4

INSIDE



ASIA

The death toll from twin blasts in the town of Parachinar climbs to 67.

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WORLD

A suicide bomber blows himself up near the Grand Mosque in Mecca.

PAGE 17



LIFE & STYLE

The giant pig of Bong Joon Ho's "Okja" is a hybrid creature for a hybrid movie.

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A bi-weekly update from the Marianas Visitors Authority

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Celebrity Chef Hyunseok Choi Promotes the Marianas

In cooperation with Hana Tour, the Marianas Visitors Authority recently organized a culinary promotion with Korean celebrity chef Hyunseok Choi. The Star Chef Tour Promotion was held on May 24-26, 2017, at Hyatt Regency Saipan and featured Choi and his assistant chef making local dishes for 200+ attendees from on- and off-island.

The event was promoted by Hana Tour online, through its Traveller magazine, newsletters, elevator wrapping, mobile messaging, Kakao-Talk push ads, banners and other media exposure. The promotion aimed to introduce the Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival and to increase the sales volume of package tours products for The Marianas.

Choi, known for his creativity and humor, has appeared on many TV cooking program in Korea.

UPCOMING EVENTS
International Festival of Cultures
Sept. 2, 9, 16, 23, & 30, 2017
Garapan Fishing Base



Local

Mangabao estate heirs paid \$3M

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
 ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com
 REPORTER

Superior Court judge pro tempore Alberto C. Lamorena III praised the CNMI government for making a payment of \$3 million to the heirs of the Maria Mangabao estate, but ordered the government to begin paying the heirs the balance of over \$15 million within 30 days.

In an order on Friday, Lamorena expressed concern that the Commonwealth has not taken enough steps to pay the Mangabao estate in full.

If the government is unable to make payments, Lamorena said it should submit a plan on how it will pay off the obligation. Any payment plan, Lamorena said, must cover the full interest rate for each installment plus an additional 25 percent of the installment toward the principal.

For example, if the interest for the proposed installment is \$100,000 then the full amount due would be \$125,000.

"While it is certainly true that finding the necessary funds to make payment is difficult, the Commonwealth is required to make payment on the judgment at a reasonable rate and within a reasonable time," Lamorena said.

Attorney Michael Dotts, counsel for the heirs, told *Saipan Tribune* that the government made a \$3 million payment last March, reducing the total amount due from close to \$20 million to about \$17 million.

Work is on getting that first \$3 million distributed to the

heirs.

Dotts said interest is now accruing at about \$957,000 per year.

Dotts said the motion that resulted in Lamorena's order was written and filed by the late attorney Edward Arriola, who also served as counsel for the heirs.

"If it were not for Ed, this every important step forward in making the CNMI recognize and pay its legal obligations would not have happened," Dotts.

The heirs, though

Arriola and Dotts, sought an order from the CNMI Supreme Court and Superior Court to compel the government, through the Finance secretary, to pay the judgment entered in 2008 that has grown to \$18.8 million over the taking of their land in Chalan Kanoa for a public purpose in 1993.

In that motion, Arriola and Dotts said the Commonwealth has paid not a cent toward satisfaction of the judgment, which continues to grow at the rate of \$2,886 per day.

Arriola and Dotts said the CNMI has actually appropriated \$15 million for the payment of judgments, but none of this had been paid to the Mangabao heirs.

The lawyers said additional cash in the amount of \$6,032,692 is also available for payment of the judgment, but unless compelled to pay by the Supreme Court, it is clear that the government has no intention of paying

the judgment.

All judges in the Superior Court have recused themselves from handling the case.

Arriola and Dotts said that Lamorena has been appointed to oversee the underlying case, but the judge has been unable to act.

While this case languishes, the heirs have grown old, many have passed away, and the heirs need the money to pay for their basic needs, the lawyers said.

**Court
orders NMI
to begin
paying
remaining
\$15M**

They said the people of the CNMI can avoid this continuing accrual of \$2,800 daily interest if it is paid.

Last January, the heirs, though Dotts and Arriola, asked the Superior Court to command Finance to pay the judgment. The Office of the Attorney General, however, asked court to deny or stay the heirs' motion to compel to give the CNMI government time to formulate further plans for payment. Assistant attorney general Charles E. Brasington said the Commonwealth does not have an unobligated \$18 million sitting in its bank accounts.

Lamorena held a status conference and motion hearing last Friday.

According to court records, the CNMI and the Mangabao heirs agreed to the taking of land consisting of 6,000 square meters in 1993 and a judgment of \$4.2 million.

Tourism Topics

A bi-weekly update from the Marianas Visitors Authority

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UPCOMING EVENTS
International Festival of Cultures
Sept. 2, 9, 16, 23, & 30, 2017
Garapan Fishing Base

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Man resentenced to 10 years in prison for sex abuse

A 25-year-old man who sexually abused a girl on Tinian starting when she was just 6 years old was resentenced Friday to a maximum of 10 years in prison.

Anthony Herrera Borja was directed to serve the 10-year sentence day to day but he is still eligible for parole after serving six years of his sentence.

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho required Borja to register as a sex offender.

Borja was given credit for time served. No fine were imposed.

The 10-year prison term is the same sentence that Camacho previously imposed on Borja. The difference is that the new sentence now allows the defendant to be eligible for parole after serving six years.

Camacho resentenced Borja after the CNMI Supreme Court in November 2015 vacated his 10-year sentence and remanded the matter for resentencing.

The high court noted that the sentence was not sufficiently individualized because information, particularly to Borja's life, went unacknowledged.

The justices said Camacho failed to request a presentence investigation report, which compiles information relevant to the particular circumstances of a defendant and is helpful in imposing individualized sentences.

In 2012, the Office of the Attorney General charged Borja with sexual abuse of a minor in the first degree, indecent exposure in the first degree, and two counts of disturbing the peace. The charges carry a total maximum sentence of 36 years in prison.

In 2013, Borja pleaded guilty to sex abuse of a minor in the

second degree as part of a plea deal. That carries a maximum sentence of 10 years imprisonment. Camacho sentenced him to 10 years in prison.

Borja appealed to the CNMI Supreme Court.

At the resentencing hearing at the Tinian courthouse on Friday, assistant attorney general Jonathan Glass Jr. recommended a seven-year prison term.

Assistant public defender Nancy Dominski, counsel for Borja, recommended a sentence of 10 years imprisonment with five years suspended.

Borja submitted his written statement and letter of apology to the victim.

In his order, Camacho said the 10-year sentence is appropriate as it will be a specific deterrence as Borja will learn from his crime and not commit other similar crimes.

The sentence, Camacho said, is appropriate as it touches upon some of the goals of sentencing: Retribution and incapacitation.

Camacho said it reaffirms to the community that child predators that sexually abuse very young children will be punished.

Camacho said that Borja's actions require that he be removed to safeguard the community.

The judge noted that Borja has a criminal history (juvenile cases) as well as 32 documented disciplinary/adverse actions, which include physical/verbal assaults, stealing, repeated disruptive behavior, abusive lewd indecent obscene acts and others.

Camacho said Borja is not a candidate for rehabilitation.

During interview with police

officers, the then 12-year-old girl confessed that Borja started touching her private parts when she was 6 years old.

The victim admitted that Borja had sex with her monthly since she was 10 years old. A staff at Tinian Health Center stated in her report that physical examination showed evidence of vaginal penetration. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

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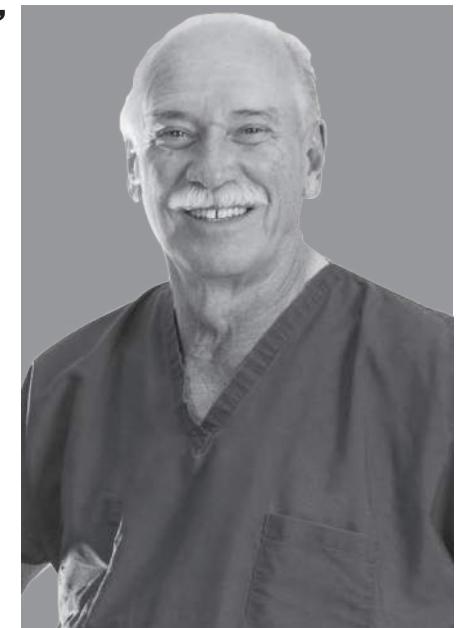
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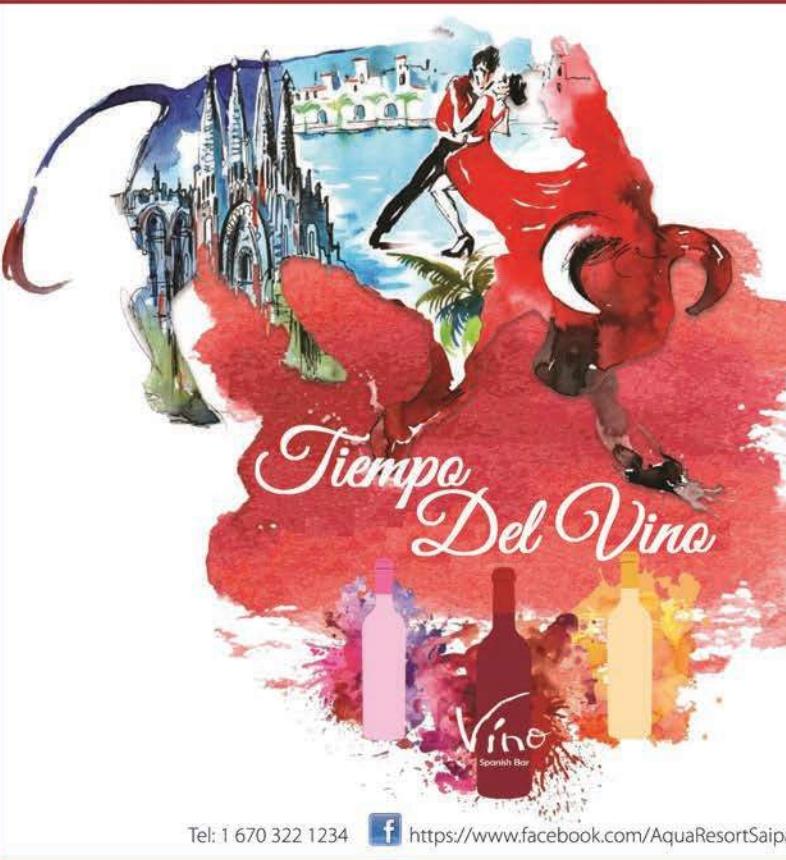


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USCIS resumes H-1B premium processing for foreign doctors

WASHINGTON, D.C.—U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services announced Friday that starting today, June 26, the agency will resume premium processing for all H-1B petitions filed for medical doctors under the Conrad 30 Waiver program, as well as interested government agency waivers. The Conrad 30 program allows certain medical doctors to stay in the United States on a temporary visa after completing their medical training to work in rural and urban areas that have shortage of physicians.

"This program improves health care access for Americans living in underserved areas, and we are pleased to resume premium processing for these petitions," said USCIS acting director James McCament.

Starting June 26, eligible petitioners for medical doctors seeking H-1B status under the Conrad 30 program, or through an interested government agency waiver, can file Form I-907, Request for Premium Processing Service for Form I-129, Petition for a Nonimmigrant Worker. Form I-907 can be filed together with an H-1B petition or separately for a pending H-1B petition.

USCIS plans to resume premium processing of other H-1B petitions as workloads permit. We will make additional announcements with specific details related to

when we will begin accepting premium processing for those petitions.

Until then, premium processing remains temporarily suspended for all other H-1B petitions. USCIS will reject any Form I-907 filed for those petitions, and if the petitioner submitted one check combining the Form I-907 and Form I-129 fees, USCIS will have to reject both forms. (USCIS)

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Military training at Warning Area 517, FDM

ASAN, GUAM—The military will conduct training at Warning Area 517 during the following dates and times:

- June 26, from 10 to 11pm
- June 27, from midnight to 11pm
- June 28, from midnight to 8pm

The military will also conduct training at the island of Farallon de Medinilla during the following dates and times:

- June 26, from 6 to 11:55pm
- June 27, from 7:30 to 11:55pm
- June 28, and 29 from 8:30 to 11:55pm
- June 30, from 8 to 11:55pm

It is recommended the public, fishermen, and marine tour operators monitor the Coast Guard broadcast notice to mariners for advisories.

W-517 is activated south of latitude 12° 40' 00"N. Santa

Rosa Reef and Galvez Bank are open for public use.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla will be in a 12-nautical mile radius of the island. (PR)

Notaries reminded to submit journals

The Office of the Attorney General is reminding all notaries public commissioned in the Commonwealth that they are required to submit a

copy of their journals on or before June 30, 2017. The law requires notaries public to submit their journal copies each year by June 30 or face sanctions, including revoking the notary public commission, or the assessment of a fine of \$100 to \$500. For more information, contact Esther San Nicolas Nesbitt at the OAG's Civil Division at 237-7500, or through email at esther_nesbitt@cnmioag.org. (PR)

ICE

From Page 1

a controlled substance.

Brenda Marie Kileleman Dionisio, 43, was detained for theft by deception.

Lewis Francisco Aldan, 24, and Tina Anise Lisou, 49, were apprehended for assault and battery, and disturbing the peace.

Sandeson Ilo Sebuu, 33, was arrested for assault and battery, and disturbing the peace.

At a hearing on Friday, Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho imposed a \$100,000 cash bail on Namauleg, \$10,000 cash on Dionisio, \$5,000 cash each on Aldan and Lisou, and \$5,500 on Sebuu.

Preliminary hearing for Namauleg and Dionisio will be on June 30 at 9am, and July 3 at 9am for Aldan, Lisou, and Sebuu.

K-9 officers were inspecting passengers at the Saipan commuter terminal last Thursday morning when a Customs dog named Sid began sniffing the purse of Namauleg, an inbound passenger from Timian. A Customs inspector found in Namauleg's purse a baggie containing 4.2 gross grams of

crystalline substance that later tested presumptive positive for methamphetamine.

Namauleg allegedly admitted to possessing "ice" inside her purse.

In Dionisio's case, police said she collected a total of \$1,450 from a barbecue stand owner by posing as Torres and seeking donation for the Lady Diann Torres Foundation.

Dionisio allegedly introduced herself last June 14 to the barbecue stand owner as Torres and asked for some donations for a boy going through surgery. The woman gave Dionisio \$100 cash that same day.

The following day, June 15, Dionisio collected \$150 more from the businesswoman after she informed her that the boy died during surgery and asked for donation to raise \$800 for a coffin. Dionisio wrote receipts for the two donations.

Last June 16, Dionisio informed the victim that Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang allegedly agreed to open a booth for her barbecue stand for the Liberation Day festivities for \$400.

After the victim paid \$400, Dionisio asked her to pay another \$400, apparently because the fee was increased.

The victim paid \$400 as Dionisio claimed she would talk to Gov. Ralph DLG Torres to cover the amount. Dionisio issued receipts for the two payments.

The following day, June 17, Dionisio called the victim again to get more money as the vendor fee allegedly went up to \$1,200. Dionisio collected \$400 more cash from the victim.

Last June 19, Dionisio called the victim and informed her that the Lady Diann Torres Foundation would provide her with a popcorn and cotton candy machine for \$100. The victim said she does not have money. Dionisio kept calling, asking for at least \$50.

The victim and her husband then attended a meeting with Liberation Day vendors at the mayor's office last June 20. The couple soon learned that their booth is not included in this year's Liberation Day.

The mayor's office staff looked at the couple's receipts that Dionisio provided and that led to her identification and arrest last June 21.

Police said Dionisio confessed getting a total of \$1,450 cash from the victim. She said she gambled away over

\$1,000 at a poker arcade in Chalan Piao.

In the case against Aldan and Lisou, the two allegedly beat up Aldan's girlfriend during an argument over alcoholic beverage outside Islanders' Store in San Antonio on Thursday at midnight.

Aldan allegedly head-butted his girlfriend on the head. Lisou allegedly joined the fight by pulling the victim's hair and punching her.

In Sebuu's case, the defendant allegedly dragged his girlfriend outside a car by pulling her hair, then punched and kicked her outside her house in Chalan Kanoa last June 21 at night.

The victim walked to Lao Market along Texas Road in Chalan Kanoa, where she called the police.

The victim suffered a cut on the left eye.

The judge learned that there was an outstanding bench warrant against Sebuu for not appearing at an arraignment last May 1 in his pending criminal case.

In that case, Sebuu was charged with assault and battery, and disturbing the peace for beating up the same girlfriend last Sept. 1.

learned that Jung had just come from the hospital to visit a sister who had just delivered a baby. She was reportedly on the way to a friend's house in As Lito when the accident happened. It was reported that Jung was still able to call her friend to call the police as she had gotten into an accident. Fire then occurred in the vehicle.

Jung used to work at Coral Ocean Point. Her family had been in the business of selling fabrics. The Department of Public Safety has yet to release details about the crash and its cause. A woman was also killed

when a car she was driving ran off the road and fell into a ditch in the same area several years ago.

Carlynn Mae Camacho, 28, also died when a pickup truck she was driving slammed into a tree near NMC in the early morning of Feb. 28, 2016.

Last March 11 at night, Felix Palacios, 52, was killed when the car he was driving struck a dump truck that had stopped to turn left to the construction project on the shoulder of Monsignor Guerrero Road near the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s Waterloo Station in Chalan Kiya.

pairs went through challenges such as the electrical problems.... Therefore, the power plant did not have adequate generating capacity to finalize the restoration of Kiya No. 4 and the second partial of Feeder No. 2."

To make up for the lack of power, CUC coordinated with the hotels and shops to self-generate until the engines were online, Gilmore and Flores said.

The hotels that were asked to switch on their generators were Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, Hyatt Regency Saipan, Grandvrio Resort, and T Galleria.

Unfortunately, the power outage also affected CUC's water supply on the island.

"At 4:15pm, repairs were completed and the engines were put online and...Feeder 7 and Kiya 4 were reenergized and the island power [was] fully restored. [However], due to the loss of island power, the water supply was affected and...water services [was] fully restored by 1am June 25, 2017."

Gilmore and Flores noted that CUC has been communicating with the vendor that installed the oil splash monitoring system that caused the initial incident to discuss and analyze the problem of the fault.

"Moving forward as per our protocol, management and staff of Power Generation will do a complete review and assessment of the cause of the incident and review issues of its operational procedures and electrical system to mitigate future problems," they said.

TEEN

From Page 1

trapped inside the vehicle.

Jung, who is of Korean descent, was later brought to the Commonwealth Health Center where a doctor pronounced her dead at 3:35am that day.

He said the department received a 911 call at 12:55am about a vehicle on fire at the corner of Monsignor Guerrero Road and Tun Antonio Apa Road in As Terlaje.

Investigation showed that Jung was heading up As Terlaje Hill when she struck the

traffic light pole head on. Fire engulfed the vehicle, trapping Jung inside.

Firefighters from Koblerville and Susupe fire stations arrived at the scene at 12:59am and managed to control the blaze at 1:10am.

A bystander managed to take photos of the vehicle, which was in flames.

It was not clear yet what was the type of the vehicle, but some witnesses said it was a sports utility vehicle.

A friend of the parents said that Jung possibly fell asleep on the wheel.

Saipan Tribune separately

START

From Page 1

Public Safety had posted the colors and the national anthems were sung, the rain became stronger and winds picked up speed. Tents started to fly and conditions worsened. Tent poles were detached and sent flying. Members of the community tried to hold down the tents as the staff of the Saipan Mayor's Office fastened them with rope.

The harsh rains also caused the power to go off at the festi-

val grounds.

The winds and rains were strong enough to rock the huge stage that was set up at the festival. Those on stage were later asked to evacuate.

Due to the threatening conditions, Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang decided it was for everyone's safety to postpone the festivities for that day.

The festival's grand opening was supposed to showcase the Liberation Day Royal Court and introduce the 2017 Liberation Day Committee. (*Kimberly Bautista*)

Spewing gas prompts two to sue Star Marianas

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Two passengers bound for Tinian to attend a funeral in July 2016 are now suing Star Marianas Air Inc. after its aircraft allegedly turned around and made an emergency landing at the Saipan airport for failing to secure the gas tank after refueling.

Ricky Gene Mendiola Lizama and a minor, through his representative, Remy Mendiola Forhad, accuse Star Marianas Air of negligence, violation of the CNMI Consumer Protection Act, and negligent infliction of emotional distress.

Star Marianas Air, through its counsel Timothy H. Bellas, however, asserted that the plaintiffs have no basis to suppose that the fuel leak was due to a failure to secure the gas tank.

Star Marianas also pointed out that the plane landed on Saipan without any damage to the aircraft or its occupants.

Lizama and Forhad, though counsel Robert J. O'Connor, want a jury trial and are demanding unspecified damages.

According to the complaint, Lizama and the child were going to Tinian aboard a Star Marianas flight on July 17, 2016, to attend a funeral.

O'Connor said the aircraft was airborne when Lizama noticed gasoline spewing out of the plane behind its wing. The lawyer said Lizama alerted the two pilots who turned the plane around and made an emergency landing at the Saipan airport. While disembarking from the plane, Lizama and the minor child allegedly smelled gasoline fumes.

The lawyer said that improperly securing a gas tank on the airplane was a serious and egregious mistake that should never have occurred.

O'Connor said the failure to secure such an item, considering the fragility of a small plane, the preciousness of its cargo, and the heightened and strict standards that apply to aircraft safety and maintenance, was "an extraordinary reckless act."

"As a result of this incident, plaintiffs suffered physical injuries, trauma, emotional distress and suffering. They were

in a state of shock and were very nervous and frightened," he said.

O'Connor said Star Marianas' failure to properly care for, maintain, and make safe a passenger airplane constitutes an unfair business practice for which plaintiffs are entitled to damages and attorney's fees pursuant to the Consumer Protection Act.

In Star Marianas' motion to dismiss, Bellas said there is no factual basis to substantiate the plaintiffs' labeling of the landing back on Saipan as an "emergency landing."

Bellas said Star Marianas does not challenge plaintiffs' negligence claim even though there are other equally plausible factual scenarios such as the gas cap could have failed or come loose during take-off.

However, Bellas said, plaintiffs have not and cannot plead that Star Marianas knew that the gas tank was not properly secured or purposely failed to secure the gas cap.

Therefore, the lawyer said, plaintiffs' suggestion that Star Marianas knew about the open condition, but failed to warn the passengers of that fact, is pleaded solely to bolster an inappropriate Consumer Protection Act claim.



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Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
1 Lower Navy Hill Road Navy Hill, Saipan, MP 96950



PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

CHCC-PSA-17-001

This is to inform the general public that the CNMI Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Program 2018 State Plan is now available for review and public comments from June 26-30, 2017. Interested members of the general public may review the CNMI WIC 2018 State Plan at the WIC Program's Administrative Office located in Upper Navy Hill, Mayoria Ave. Building N25. Our Office hours are from 7:30 am to 4:30 pm (Monday-Friday). All public comments must be submitted in writing to the WIC Program Administrator at the same office no later than close of business on June 30, 2017.

/s/ **Esther L. Muñá**
Chief Executive Office

/s/ **Erin Angela Camacho**
CNMI WIC Program Administrator



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Office of the Executive Director



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

CUC-RFP-17-026

Professional Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) Utility Software For Billing, Financials, Work Order Computer System

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation, is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from utility billing, financials and work order software developer firms, for the Purchase of Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) software and sustainment for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The scope of work entails assessment, training, project management, migration, application and implementation. Deliverables may include a quotation for equipment to support the project, collaborative and performance reporting.

A Pre-Proposal Conference will be conducted at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room 17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan on **June 27, 2017 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**.

The RFP Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 (non-refundable) for one RFP package set. The RFP package consisting of the specifications and scope-of-service will be provided in a CD or emailed to the registered email ID. Prospective Proposers must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division.

One (1) original and five (5) hard copies, along with an electronic copy of the proposal on a compact disk in PDF format must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RFP-17-026 Professional Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) Utility Software For Billing, Financials, Work Order Computer System" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than July 14, 2017 at 10:00 AM (ChST). Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

A Proposal Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total proposal price must accompany the proposals. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or proposal bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful Proposer. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety.

Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Proposers are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discuss and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Offeror are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page: <https://marianaslabor.net/>. The proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on June 30, 2017** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Antonio B. Castro, CUC Chief Financial Officer via email address antonio.castro@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, CUC Purchasing Assistant via email address marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLÁN, Jr.
Purchasing Administrator

Naraja: AG can sue Finance's Larson for salary increases under PL 19-83

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Superior Court Presiding Judge Roberto C. Naraja ruled Wednesday last week that Attorney General Edward Manibusan has the authority to sue Finance Secretary Larrisa Larson over the salary increases that the Legislature had approved for some elected officials.

In denying Larson's motion for summary judgment, Naraja said that Manibusan can sue Larson because Article 3 Section 11 of the NMI Constitution gives him the plenary authority to sue when there are violations of Commonwealth law.

"This case is ripe for adjudication because Manibusan's suit alleges ongoing constitutional violations and it is extremely likely that [Public Law] 19-83 will be fully implemented," said the judge in the 13-page order.

In November 2016, the Legislature passed Public Law 19-83, which instituted pay raises for civil service government employees, the governor, lieutenant governor, and members of the Legislature.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres did not sign the bill into law but neither did he exercise his veto power. Instead, he allowed PL 19-83 to lapse into law.

Naraja said that Larson has a stake in this suit since she is the head of Finance.

Last Feb. 9, Manibusan

sued Larson, claiming that she should be stopped from distributing any pay raises pursuant to PL 19-83.

Larson retained Kimberlyn K. King-Hinds and Matthew T. Gregory as her lawyers and filed a motion to disqualify and a motion for summary judgment.

Naraja recently issued an order denying Larson's motion disqualify Manibusan and his office from continuing as counsel or a party to Manibusan's lawsuit.

With respect to the motion for summary judgment, Larson, through counsel, argued that this case is not ripe for adjudication because PL 19-83 does not authorize her to disburse the allegedly unconstitutional pay raises.

Larson also raised issues such as whether she is a proper party and whether Manibusan is statutorily barred from bringing a claim against an executive agency, like Finance.

Manibusan, through counsel, argued that this case is ripe for adjudication because the allegedly impermissible pay raises will inevitably be implemented.

Manibusan also argued that his claims are purely legal challenges. As such, there is no need to wait for the actual application of the law for the court to rule on the question.

In his ruling on Wednesday, Naraja said the Legislature has signaled that it intends to pay out the raises by passing PL

19-83 in the first place.

"The proverbial guillotine has begun to drop and Manibusan need not wait for the blow to actually be struck," Naraja said.

The judge pointed out that the mere fact that PL 19-83 has been passed into law is a potential constitutional injury. Even if there is no appropriation it is the current law of the Commonwealth.

Naraja said Manibusan can proactively seek to block the allegedly unconstitutional payments, which have already occurred as well as those that are soon to begin.

Naraja said Larson's ripeness argument fails as a matter of law.

The judge said Larson's argument that she is not a proper party fails because there is a clear connection between her role as Finance secretary and the alleged injury suffered by Manibusan.

Naraja rejected Larson's argument that Manibusan cannot properly bring suit against her.

"Manibusan has plenary authority to bring suit alleging violations of Commonwealth law, whether the violation is civil or criminal in nature," he said.

Naraja said in the circumstance that the AG brings suit against a department, by suing that department's officer, the AG is obligated to ensure that competent counsel is appointed, which has occurred in this case.

New CHCC board holds first meeting

By BEA CABRERA
bea.cabrera@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The newly constituted board of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. held its first public meeting last Friday, with the corporation's chief executive officer, Esther Muñá, giving them an update on what has been happening at the agency.

"This is a good chance for the board to get organized to familiarize themselves with the duties and know the scope of their responsibilities because the board represents the community and the stakeholders of the healthcare system [on] Saipan, Tinian, and Rota," Muñá said.

Present at the meeting were board chair Lauri Ogumoro, vice chair David Rosario, and members Leticia Reyes, David Rosario, and William Cing of Tinian.

The meeting was highlighted by the drawing of lots pertaining to the tenure or number of years each member will serve on the board. The determination of the years of service is a requirement of the law and must be upheld. Ogumoro

will serve six years, Rosario will serve six years, Reyes four years, Cing four years, and Dr. Larry Hocog of Rota four years. Hocog drew four years by default because he was not able to attend the meeting.

"There's a good team at CHCC and we want the board to help them because this is our community hospital. We are looking at providing governance to them, not a day-to-day management and operation but we want to see what we can do to build the hospital for the community. It's here and it's working but we can always improve. That is what the [board] is part of," Ogumoro said.

From the time of the CHCC board members' confirmation to the transition, they will be provided with information and data about the hospital, operations, finances, activities by Muñá.

"They need to be organized, they need officers as well as getting the lottery of terms. That lottery of terms was necessary because PL-19-78 requires it and it provides a

working relationship between the chair of the board and the CEO so that things will have a smooth transition into their new roles six months from now," Muñá added.

As board chair, Ogumoro said she would make sure that the programs the board will make and have will redound to the benefit of the community. "Being the chair carries a lot of responsibilities and a daunting task. My job is to work with the CEO for the community because this is our hospital," she said.

"[Our] immediate project is to get ourselves organized and learn from the different areas in the hospital...and we will determine what are the most important goals to be able to move forward," Ogumoro added.

The next board meeting is on July 20, 5:30pm at the CHCC administrative conference room.

Unlike the previous board, which had a purely recommendatory role at CHCC, this new board will have power over the corporation, with Muñá as its direct employee.

Palacios is acting governor

Senate President Arnold Palacios (R-Saipan) has been named acting governor since both Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Lt. Gov. Victor B. Hocog are off-island for an extended period of time.

Palacios would be acting governor until Hocog's return, which would be on June 28, 2017. Hocog would be acting governor until Torres' return on July 2, 2017.

Torres is attending the Western Governors' Associa-

Benavente named to CPUC seat

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres has nominated James Diego Benavente to serve as a member of the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission in a letter dated June 21, 2017.

The governor believes that Benavente is highly qualified to fulfill the vital responsibilities of the commission.

Benavente is a civil engineer and has been working in government service since 2013, starting at the Com-

tion, or WGA, annual meeting in Montana. The 2017 annual meeting would feature U.S. Department of the Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke and would be attended by WGA chair and Montana Gov. Steve Bullock, WGA vice chair and South Dakota Gov. Dennis Daugaard, Wyoming Gov. Matt Mead, Nevada Gov. Brian Sandoval, Utah Gov. Gary Herbert, Alaska Gov. Bill Walker, Hawaii Gov. David Ige, North Dakota Gov. Doug

Burgum, Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper, and Idaho Gov. Butch Otter.

The WGA annual meeting is a meeting among state

heads to discuss critical issues such as energy grids security, infrastructure, and more.

Torres left for Montana last June 23, 2017.



Hocog is reportedly in Shanghai, China with representatives of the Marianas Visitors Authority. They are reportedly attending a strat-

egy meeting regarding the planning of the Marianas International Film Festival that is proposed for later this year. (Erwin Encinare)

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² Subject to credit approval. Apply for the United MileagePlus Business Credit Card by 06/30/17 and, if approved, receive 10,000 bonus miles at account opening and 15,000 bonus miles if you spend \$3,000 in purchases within the first 3 months after your account is opened. Also, you'll earn 2 miles per \$1 spent on United ticket purchases and 1 mile per \$1 spent on all other qualifying purchases. \$0 introductory annual fee for the first year after account opening; thereafter, the annual fee is \$45. Additional limitations, terms and conditions apply. See the United MileagePlus Credit Card Agreement for more information.

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29TH ENVIRONMENT CONFERENCE

'Lots of positive comments on Saipan conference'

The 29th Pacific Islands Environment Conference, hosted by the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality, in partnership with the American Samoa Environmental Protection Agency and Guam EPA, brought delegations from the U.S. mainland and across the Pacific, American Samoa, Guam, Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Marshall Islands to work in partnership on various environmental issues.

"Kudos to the BECQ team for a fantastic conference. We heard lots of positive comments and praise from the people in attendance," said John McCarroll, manager for US EPA Region 9.

BECQ administrator Frank M. Rabauliman, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, and acting regional administrator for USEPA Region 9 Alexis Strauss welcomed all the environmental advocates, delegates, the scientific community, and community members in attendance.

Despite the uncertainties regarding the federal budget, Strauss said the Pacific region is not overlooked. She shared several milestones for the CNMI and other Pacific island

jurisdictions, most notably for the CNMI, including the closure of the Puerto Rico dump, now known as the Gov. Eloy S. Inos Peace Park.

Roger-Mark DeSouza of the Wilson Center in Washington, D.C. set the stage with his keynote speech on island resilience, highlighting that strange things have occurred in his studies on how the communities in other territories have innovatively dealt with climate change impacts.

Dr. Mark Keim, CEO of Disaster Doc LLC and a senior science adviser of the National Center for Disaster Medicine and Public Health, emphasized the implications of climate change on public health. Keim touched on some of the work he has done in other Pacific jurisdictions and reiterated the statement of the IPCC reports that some communities are more vulnerable to climate change due to varying socioeconomic stresses.

The 29th PIEC also had new features. On opening day, Torres signed a directive that supports the objectives of the CNMI Resilience Work Group, requiring interagency collaboration to ensure that



Roger-Mark De Souza, director at the Wilson Center, Washington, D.C., delivers his keynote address.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

the livelihoods, the natural, and built environments can withstand the impacts of climate variability and change. The signing of the directive was timely, given that climate policy at the national level has been unpredictable.

Another new feature was the goal of having a paperless conference. "Although we did not achieve our goal of a true

no paper conference, we were able to significantly reduce the amount of waste reduction at the conference by not having a printed program agenda, directing attendees to visit the deq.gov.mp website for speaker biographies and conference schedule, having onsite recycling bins to encourage recycling and reduced our carbon footprint through carpool-

ing and walking to nearby restaurants for lunch," said Reina Camacho, conference chairperson.

Camacho added that the goal of the PIEC to assemble the CNMI community alongside environmental professionals to learn and dialogue was achieved.

The PIEC also featured breakout sessions within the

environmental field: enforcement, ecotourism, climate risks, coral reefs, sustainable water use, green development, public health, canines for conservation, and data management. In addition to the sessions, each jurisdiction's director was given an opportunity to share the experiences and challenges that they have encountered.

Over 300 people attended the three-day event, which took place at the Saipan World Resort on June 13, 14, and 15, with the theme "A Sustainable Pacific: Preparing for Change, Voyaging with Knowledge."

In addition to the conference, workshops tailored to water quality data management and water operator certification occurred as pre-conference events. Post-conference events were geared toward the environmental impact assessment process and responding oil spill events.

The next PIEC is scheduled to take place in June 2019 in Guam. If you were unable to attend the PIEC or would like more information on what transpired, visit www.deq.gov.mp. (PR)

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-17-023, Rev.2

OEM-Assessment & Preventative Maintenance Services for the Diesel Engine Systems at CUC Power Plant No. 1, Saipan

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals for OEM-Assessment & Preventive Maintenance Services (PMS) for the Diesel engine systems at CUC Saipan Power Plant No. 1, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The solicitation seeks responses from qualified ORIGINAL EQUIPMENT MANUFACTURERS (OEMs) or their authorized licensees from which CUC intends to select the most responsive proposer to negotiate the final scope of work and enter into a contract agreement that best fit CUC's requirements. The term for the initial contract is for a period of ONE (1) year which may be extended or renewed upon mutual agreement.

A Pre-Proposal Conference will be conducted at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room 17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan on **June 15, 2017 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Immediately after the conference, a Site Visit to the CUC Power Plant No. 1 facility will be conducted. Prospective Proposers shall familiarize themselves with the site conditions prior to submitting the proposal.

The RFP Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$200.00 (non-refundable) for one RFP package set. The RFP package consisting of the specifications and scope-of-service will be provided in a CD or emailed to the registered email ID. Prospective Proposers must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division.

One (1) original and five (5) hard copies, along with an electronic copy of the proposal on a compact disk in PDF format must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RFP-17-023, Rev. 2, OEM-Assessment & PMS for the Diesel engine systems at CUC Saipan Power Plant 1, Saipan" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **July 7, 2017 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

A *Proposal Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total proposal price must accompany the proposals. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or proposal bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful Proposer. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be administered by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Proposers are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Offeror are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page: <https://marianaslabor.net/>. The proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST)** on **June 19, 2017** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Venugopal Prabhakara, CUC Utility Coordinator for Power via email venugopal.prabhakara@cucgov.org, Richard Cano, CUC Power Generation Manager via email richard.cano@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, CUC Purchasing Assistant via email address marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN, Jr.
Purchasing Administrator

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS

CUC-IFB-17-033
NMC SEWER LINE UPGRADE
(S-14-035)

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the replacement and upgrade of sewer line in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The project consists, in general of the replacement of asbestos cement pipe (ACP) in the area of Northern Mariana College, Fina Sisu. The work shall be done not to disrupt the daily operation of the sewer discharge. The Project is to replace approximately ± 750 LF of existing 8-inch ACP, ± 20 LF of 10-inch force main, existing service lateral exploration work, 4-inch service lateral connections and clean-outs, installation of new concrete sewer manhole installation and abandonment of existing sewer manhole, installation and monitoring of wastewater temporary by-pass pumping system and road restoration.

This project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from USEPA.

CUC requires the Project to be completed in **200 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **June 14, 2017 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-17-033, NMC Sewer Line Upgrade", to the **CUC Procurement & Supply Office**, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST)** on **June 30, 2017**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered Prospective Bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST)** on **June 16, 2017** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Administrator- via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Birhen Martinez, CUC Water/Wastewater Senior Engineer – via email address birhen.martinez@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, CUC Purchasing Assistant- via email address marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and to waive any defects in said bid documents, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN, JR.
Purchasing Administrator

Interior gives Guam grant funds for FY 2017

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Acting Interior assistant secretary for Insular Areas Nikolao Pula made available this week \$516,031 in technical assistance grant funding for the benefit of several programs that are identified as priority needs by Guam Gov. Eddie Calvo.

"Guam is the biggest island of the U.S. insular areas in the Pacific and an important regional hub for cultural and business travel and exchange," said Pula. "We are pleased to provide this funding that assists the government of Guam to keep the public safe and ensure overall efficiencies in public services."

■ Department of Public Health and Social Services (\$204,060) to improve automation in the processing of applications for health certificates, sanitary permits, and controlled substances registration certificates. Funds will also provide for conversion of the current database to Filemaker Pro, which will enable Web-enabled application and payment services, as well as reduce fraud and abuse.

■ Guam Police Department (\$13,671) for the Mandaña Community Oriented Policing App (Neighborhood watch program). The neighborhood watch program has already proven effective in Barrigada and Agaña Heights, not only in reducing incidences of burglary, larceny and assault, but also improving the climate for business, access to community facilities and improved services, and ensuring overall revitalization of common

village areas on the island. The mobile application part of the project allows citizens to utilize the latest technology to access and report issues related to public safety. Mobile Pula apps also provide

funds. ■ Offices of Homeland Security and Civil Defense. (\$127,500) to automate current licensing and permitting processes and streamline services provided through

the Guam One Stop Licensing Center, which processes all business and professional license applications, as well as building permits and schedules inspections. This collaborative project between numerous agencies and departments, such as Revenue and Taxation, Public Works, the Fire Department, the Police Department, the Guam Visitor's Bureau, the Guam Contractors License Board and others, will ensure an improved one-stop shop service through a cloud-based system, providing access and flexibility for all end-users and integrating all department systems under one platform. This project also supports recommendations provided by the Interior inspector general who flagged loss of tax revenue due to ineffective implementation of the business license clearance process. This project is expected to be completed by 2019. (PR)



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Head Start Policy Council
FINAL Meeting Agenda

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Head Start Policy Council hereby gives notice that it will have a Special Meeting on Thursday, June 27, 2017 at 3:30p.m., at the Head Start Main Office, Bldg. 1256, Capitol Hill, Saipan.

I. Preliminary Matters
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Quorum
4. Adoption of Agenda
5. Adoption of Minutes
a. June 21, 2017

II. New Business
1. Head Start Program Funds

III. Public Comments¹

IV. Miscellaneous

V. Executive Session²

VI. Next Meeting

VII. Adjournment

This meeting is open to the public, interested individuals are welcome to attend. Any person(s) requiring special accommodations may contact Mrs. Candace Q. Celis at (670) 664-3761 or email address at candace.celis@cnmipss.org, several days of notice is required.

/s/ Ana Ada
Chairwoman

¹Pursuant to BOE Policy 0415, public comments are limited to 30 minutes. We ask that remarks be limited to 3 minutes each. Everyone is welcomed to submit written comments.

²Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Council may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

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Opinion

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

Whatever happened to repeal and replace?

There might be something funnier than congressional Democrats complaining about the Republican Obamacare "fix" being drafted in secret, but offhand we can't think of what. Obamacare itself, don't forget, was crafted in private. And would that complicated monstrosity mean for Americans? Well, we have to pass it so we know what's in it, then House Speaker Nancy Pelosi famously said.

And there might be something more disingenuous than Democrats complaining that Republicans are trying to sabotage Obamacare, but we can't imagine that, either. The financially unsustainable model began collapsing in on itself almost as soon as those hideous insurance exchanges opened. The announcement that Anthem and MDwise, the two insurance providers that sold Obamacare plans in all 92 Indiana counties, are pulling out of the health exchanges is just the latest in a long line of abandonments.

Indiana Democratic Sen. Joe Donnelly is harshly critical of the Trump administration, saying "its strategy of letting Obamacare 'explode' instead of fixing its problems" is hurting Hoosiers. "If your house needs repairs, you don't set the house on fire. You work to fix the issues."

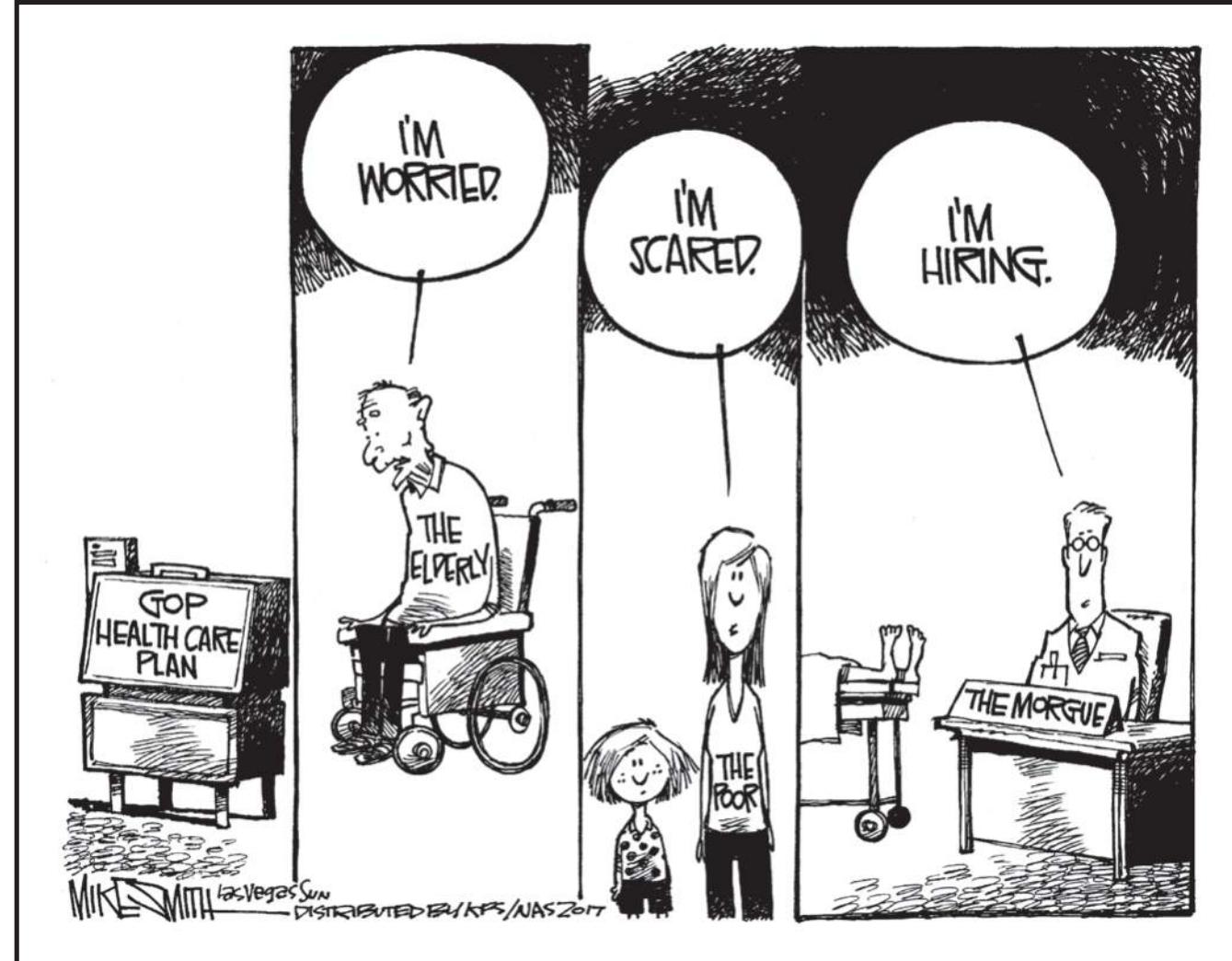
The problem is that Democrats built their house on quicksand in a swamp. No matter how many repairs are made, it is still going to sink. How much money will we throw into that utter failure?

The answer is: Far, far more than we should. Though they committed the same sin, Democrats are right to highlight Republican secrecy. On top of the complicated mess of Obamacare will be a complicated mess of Republican fixes, and it will be years before the Americans affected will understand it all, if they ever do. Whatever happened to that ironclad "repeal and replace" promise?

While all this is going on, Indiana is winning praise as one of two states (along with Rhode Island) for reforming Medicaid in ways that "curb costs and enhance recipients' quality of care."

Ordinarily, such government efficiency would be a matter deserving praise. But coming at a time when the government seems intent on taking over health care entirely, it seems a prelude to the day when Medicaid/Medicare will be the only health care plan available to Americans. A cynic might even say it was planned that way all along.

(c)2017 The News-Sentinel (Fort Wayne, Ind.)



Loser of a healthcare bill will haunt GOP

The big problem with the Republicans' new health plan isn't the secrecy with which it was written. Nor even the ridiculous speed with which they now plan to rush it through the Senate.

The problem is that Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and his lieutenants are just plum scared.

How else to explain the jacked-up way the party is pretending the health care repeal is really just a budget reconciliation measure, rather than a real live piece of legislation that will strip health insurance from millions of Americans? A budget reconciliation measure requires only a simple majority to pass and can't be filibustered.

They know that they don't have the votes to pass such a dog pile of a bill under normal rules.

That is, since they only have 52 Republicans in the Senate, they feel they'd have to bend too far to write a bill that would persuade eight Democrats to vote for it, enough to avoid a filibuster.

What's wrong with that?

Well nearly everything. But let's start with the big-picture basics.

The reason the Senate operates differently from the House is because the Founders reasoned there was advantage in having at least one of the chambers of Congress be deliberative. The reason the Senate requires a 60-vote majority to get past a filibuster is because, especially on very large changes to our laws, there used to be a feeling that requiring a majority party to work hard to win over at least some of the other team would ensure that the bill was thoroughly hashed out.

Rep. Michael Burgess talked with The Dallas Morning News editorial board this week. He talked sense about all sorts of things. But when he said that the Senate decision to operate under reconciliation rules had limited the lawmakers' flexibility when working on the Obamacare repeal bills, I asked him why his party had decided to go that route.

His answer: That's how Obama and the Democrats operated when they rammed the Affordable Care Act down the Republicans' throats, and so that's how the Republicans are going to ram down their replacement bill.

Ain't Washington great?

Except of course, in this particular case it doesn't even happen to be true. Not even remotely.

The Democrats pulled a number of legislative tricks toward the end to get their bill past the 60-vote threshold. And it's true that by the time the final version made it to the floor, there were

By MICHAEL A. LINDBERGER
The Dallas Morning News



Michael A. Lindberger is a member of The Dallas Morning News editorial board. Readers may email him at mlindberger@dallasnews.com.

plenty of lawmakers who hadn't read the whole bill.

So disgusted were certain members of the minority party that they loudly declared that if ever the political fortunes changed, and they were in the majority, they would run things with far less secrecy.

Actually, by "certain members" I mean McConnell, who promptly forgot about that pledge.

But long before the Democrats were busy pushing their bill through at the end, they had held plenty of open hearings about the bill. Hearings that were open to both parties and the public.

Senate Republicans have, by contrast, held only "listening sessions" open only to Republican lawmakers.

But as I said, it's not the secrecy that's telling here. It's the craven politics.

Were Democrats hard-pressed to pass their bill all those years ago? You betcha. They spent a year arguing about it, drafting it, and fighting over whether the moderates or the liberals would win. You might remember that liberal Democrats were for a single-payer system, and the moderates believed they'd only get 60 votes if they adopted the centrist market-based approach pioneered by Mitt Romney in Massachusetts.

Obama sided with the moderates and that's what passed.

But notice: The Democrats worked overtime because they needed a bill to pass with 60 votes. Republicans, who were outvoted in the presidential election and who lost seats to Democrats, had a choice. They could have tried to pass a bill that would have peeled off eight Democrats and created something of a bipartisan replacement for Obamacare.

But they didn't try. Is it because they lacked the votes? Or the guts?

It's not easy to say. But when they do pass this loser of a bill, if they pass it, they are going to wear it come 2018. They might find that what they hoped would be a life vest is really an anchor tied tight around their shoulders.

EDITORIAL POLICY

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An open letter to Russian President Vladimir Putin

By GLORIA JOHNS
Tribune News Service

Dear President Putin:
There is no doubt that you control American politics and, in fact, you are now in control of the White House and the present and future state of democracy in the United States. That you have done this without firing a shot or shedding one ounce of blood of your kinsmen or ours proves that you deserve a place of highest notoriety on the world stage. Your achievement in bringing the most powerful nation to heel means that you, at least for a time, have assumed the role of the most powerful man on earth.

Books will be written, Russian children will sing songs, and Nov. 8 will become Vladimir Putin Day.

And while it may be true that Russia's military is far inferior to that of the U.S., it doesn't matter. You've introduced a whole new strategy of engagement—cunning.

And your choice for American president, Donald Trump, couldn't have been better. He is lacking in intelligence, quirky tending toward crazy, and one whose thirst for fame made him the best accomplice for your master plan. It wasn't so much that you manhandled Trump; he was as easily seduced as Adam by Eve.

You knew, Vladimir, but others in this country did not, that on Nov. 8, 2016, the U.S. elected two presidents.

And you must be gloating as the U.S. has seen the unraveling of what used to be commonly shared values in favor of baser urges: despising people of color, white against everyone else, for example. And I'm sure you're expecting the future to include Trump's already rabid base becoming even more aggressive as the Russian investigation reveals more.

"We are under siege," Donald Trump said this month at the Faith & Freedom Coalition conference in Washington. Assuming that "we" is Trump, his administration and his supporters, "under siege" almost sounds like a call to arms.

American against American.

Of course, any dethroning depends on a front line that paves the way for what's to come. And there are so many willing accomplices woven into the fabric of your brilliant coup that dissecing all of it will be akin to breaking an enemy code.

As for the Republican Party: Having long flirted with an exclusionist mentality, they have now created the perfect bigot and will forever be known as the party that gave America Donald Trump, and not in a good way.

A question for you: Was recruitment of the first-string squad based on the strength of the player or the weakness?

There are two things that might happen now:

Even more sanctions will be imposed on your country. Someone accustomed to his people starving, however, can dismiss that with the wave of a hand.

Or, like a cat that tires of batting around a dead mouse, you could realize the ultimate victory and expose the role the U.S. president played in the conspiracy, proving that you've had the upper hand all along. And you have.

In the words of Genghis Khan: "It is not so much that I succeed but that others must fail." Sooner or later, you'll turn on him.

As you have backed U.S. leadership into a corner, the highest administration officials have lawyered up, thus further isolating government from the people. Not that much information has been forthcoming, but with the White House in lockdown—now functioning as a satellite Russian Embassy—and the left-wing-liberal-mainstream-media offering up fake news, citizens of this country can't get any information that is on the record.

So, Vladimir, we turn to you for answers. When the story unravels in the future, you must tell us about the crucial moment in the earliest days of Donald Trump's campaign when the first words were spoken, the first glances were exchanged between your minions and his; the moment a community of scoundrels joined hands to destabilize the greatest country on earth.

For now, the question to you is, what's next? You have the microphone and we are riveted.

Gloria Johns is a freelance writer living in San Angelo, Texas. Contact her at glo_kel@yahoo.com.

No ready replacement for losing work identity in retirement

By ERIC SEBO
THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS

Something is missing in my life after retirement. I feel as though I am on vacation, going down a scenic country road with windows open, music playing, hair (what's left of it) blowing in the wind.

At the same time, I'm anxious because I don't know which exit to take and realize that my time and energy are inevitably winding down.

The problem is not financial. I worked longer, saved more and delayed Social Security payments. Nor is it medical or social, as I work out regularly, eat the right foods and maintain great relationships.

What is wrong is that my work identity has vanished, and I have no ready replacement.

Seeking a retirement identity is not a topic often covered. Radio shows provide advice on investments, real estate and the stock market. In the print media, each "new retirement idea" seems to be a repackaged article on financial, familial, health or social challenges. While all are important, so too is preparing for who you will be after your final day at work.

For some, retirement pursuits are obvious, but others figure it out later on. I belong to the latter category. It has been hard shedding a work identity developed over 50-plus years. Looking back, I could have done some things better to prepare. So my purpose here is to begin a new discussion, sharing my thoughts and experiences on how to prepare one's mind for retirement.

I have found that creating a retirement identity includes a shift in mind-set. Early on, I tended to measure each day's success through productivity gains—finding ways to keep busy until 5 p.m.—rather than through a simple appreciation of my day. While retirement was an important date on the calendar, I didn't have a vision as to what "me" would look like once the echoes of work were gone.

So, as retirement began, I kept my workplace identity.

My personal shift began recently. One day, in response to a rather desperate question about how to fill my days, my wife told me in rather firm terms: "You have had many experiences. Go write about them." Her comment struck a chord. Before marriage, kids and my career, I used to love writing.

Our talk also made me remember the ways I found to continue writing when I was working. There were write-ups for company awards, newsletters and outreach programs. As I put in many hours to craft these documents, I wondered if it wouldn't be eas-

ier just to do my normal job. But I am glad I kept those thoughts at bay. Those write-ups not only gained recognition for individuals and helped teams meet their communication goals, but they honed a skill that I'm relying on today.

An initial roadblock to sustaining my new identity was that my mind didn't understand the relaxation part of retirement. And why should it? During my work years, I paid for a gym I rarely used, rejected quiet breathing and yoga without trying, and stoked my energy level with caffeine. It is hard to turn relaxing on after years of refusing it.

In retrospect, I needed to give myself permission to relax—and to accept that the ability to do so meaningfully evolves over time.

In sum, to those approaching or planning for retirement, recognize the challenges that will be created by the loss of your workplace identity. Prepare for and, over the years, nurture your new retirement identity. By doing so, you will ease the transition to your truly golden years and may even map the exit you need to take on that scenic country road.

Eric Sebo is a recently retired technology manager who lives in Dallas. He wrote this for The Dallas Morning News. Readers may email him at ericjsebo@gmail.com.

The peril of looking Middle Eastern

By IFATH SAYED
Tribune News Service

A few years back, Mohammad Buhmaid was on his daily walk to the gym in Wilmette, Ill., a Chicago suburb mostly populated by affluent, white Americans. He saw a woman ahead of him turn and eye him suspiciously. As he recalls, she clutched her son close and hurried away.

Buhmaid, a well-to-do Arab Muslim from Qatar, was an exchange student at the time. He's now working toward his masters at University of Southern California. I learned of him while attending his old university in the Middle East. He told me he has had many such experiences in the United States.

Once, a woman hugged her bag tighter when he sat next to her on the Chicago L train. He received penetrating stares from strangers while speaking Arabic with a friend. He was also followed around a high-end sports store because the salesperson seemed to think he might try to steal.

There is nothing extraordinary about any of these experiences.

That's the point.

Min Zhou, a professor of sociology and Asian-American studies at UCLA, says people who are either "Middle-Eastern looking" or "Muslim looking" are very likely to be perceived as a threat. She has personally witnessed her non-Muslim Indian students being harassed because they looked like Pakistani Muslims.

In late May, a man began verbally assaulting two women on train in Portland, Ore., yelling anti-Muslim comments. He then stabbed three men who came to their aid, two fatally. In early June, a man began berating a group of Muslim girls in a Chicago restaurant, at one point saying, "Get going. Beat it. If you don't like this country, leave." One woman responded that they were all Chicago residents.

Zhou, who researches international migration and ethnic relations, says long-standing negative stereotypes against certain communities are based on societal prejudices, media narratives and passive acceptance of these beliefs. She believes more communication and interactions, like direct contact between generally segregated communities, are essential to diminish these stereotypes.

"Once you get over the barrier of face to face interaction, I think people can become friends, and then, through this friendship, they would ease out of the prejudice," Zhou says.

These stereotypes can have toxic effects for all involved. Buhmaid says that over time he became extra cautious about how he interacted with people and would continuously speculate whether anyone misjudged him during conversations. Sometimes, when he saw white American girls walking ahead of him, he altered his path to avoid any suspicion.

"I began to wear what other young Americans wear here, like shorts, tank tops and jeans," he says. And he displayed possessions like his smartphone "to show people that I have the money to buy these things for myself and I'm not going to steal."

But Buhmaid knows that no matter how he dresses or behaves, people will make judgments based on how he looks: "If America puts you in a category, then you don't get to choose what you want to be identified as."

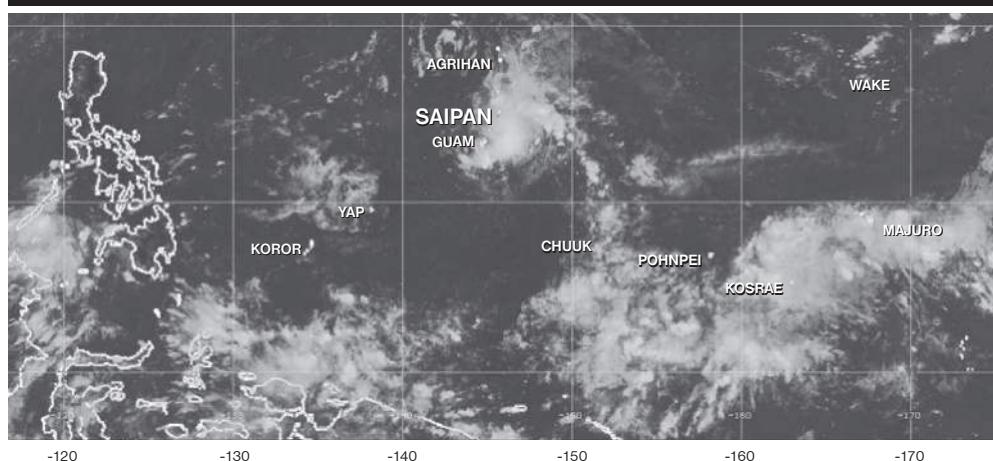
Ifath Sayed is a senior studying journalism at Northwestern University's Qatar campus. She wrote this for Progressive Media Project.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Partly sunny with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Southeast winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 88° ▼ 78°	▲ 89° ▼ 78°	▲ 89° ▼ 78°	▲ 89° ▼ 78°	▲ 89° ▼ 78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:20 AM, SUNDAY, JUNE 11, 2017

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A TUTT cell to the north of Saipan and an approaching tropical disturbance remain the focus of the forecast through Monday. These two systems will continue to interact with each other to maintain an unsettled pattern over the Marianas through Monday night. Only isolated showers and thunderstorms are seen over the Marianas this morning, however, scattered to numerous showers and isolated thunderstorms are evident just east of the coastal waters and are expected to move into the area a little later this morning. Over the past hour, showers and a thunderstorm have developed just south of Guam and near Cocos Island. Expect cloud cover and shower coverage to increase quickly this morning as the disturbance moves closer to the islands. The TUTT cell has begun to move a bit faster westward and will likely clear the area a bit earlier than previously expected. The disturbance, however, will continue to affect the region through Monday night. Showers are expected to decrease to isolated by Monday morning, but the risk of thunderstorms will continue until early Tuesday morning. A drier trade-wind pattern will return for Tuesday and Wednesday, with another weak trade-wind disturbance approaching the Marianas Thursday, bringing an unsettled pattern back to the islands for the end of the week.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA	▲	▼	°F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	87	79 °F
Palau	Thunderstorms	84	76 °F
Yap	Partly cloudy	87	72 °F
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	86	79 °F
Pohnpei	Partly cloudy	86	79 °F
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	85	79 °F
Majuro	Thunderstorms	84	81 °F

AROUND THE GLOBE	▲	▼	°F
Auckland	Sunny	57	47 °F
Beijing	Thunderstorms	88	76 °F
Hong Kong	Partly cloudy	87	82 °F
Honolulu	Partly cloudy	85	75 °F
London	Partly cloudy	76	60 °F
Los Angeles	Sunny	85	66 °F
Manila	Mostly cloudy	87	78 °F
Melbourne	Partly cloudy	55	41 °F
Miami	Partly cloudy	87	78 °F
New York	Partly cloudy	76	63 °F
Osaka	Partly cloudy	79	69 °F
Paris	Sunny	85	63 °F
Pusan	Rain	83	64 °F
Rome	Sunny	93	72 °F
Salem	Sunny	86	55 °F
San Francisco	Partly cloudy	67	55 °F
Seoul	Rain	83	67 °F
Tokyo	Cloudy	79	69 °F
Washington, DC	Cloudy	77	61 °F

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■ Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
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■ Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY FEET		
3:21 AM	LOW TIDE	1.11
8:12 AM	HIGH TIDE	2.06
3:36 PM	LOW TIDE	-0.65
10:36 PM	HIGH TIDE	2.08

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:49 AM	6:50 PM
Tuesday	5:49 AM	6:50 PM
Wednesday	5:49 AM	6:50 PM
Thursday	5:49 AM	6:51 PM
Friday	5:50 AM	6:51 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	7:46 AM	8:55 PM	-
Tuesday	8:47 AM	9:47 PM	-
Wednesday	9:46 AM	10:35 PM	-
Thursday	10:41 AM	11:19 PM	-
Friday	11:33 AM	-	-

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 19, 2017

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily	UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily	UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota	UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6	UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily	UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily	UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)				GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7	UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)				ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN			
UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7	UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	1:35am	5:20am	2, 3, 4, 5	7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1	ZE581	10:10am	3:55pm	Daily
TW308	2:35am	6:20am	6, 7	TW307	7:05pm	12:35am+1	1, 2, 3, 4
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily	TW307	8:05pm	1:35am+1	5, 6
LJ652	4:45am	8:35am	1, 4, 5, 7	OZ625	8:15pm	1:45pm+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily	7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily
ZE582	4:45pm	8:35pm	Daily	LJ651	10:00pm	3:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 7	7C3452	9:00pm	2:10am+1	4
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7	OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 6
7C3451	4:00am	7:05am	4, 5	7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	3, 6, 7
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)				BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7	MU763	4:25pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)							

2nd Annual NMTI Gala



Tanya Belyeu Camacho performs master of ceremony duties at the 2nd Annual Northern Marianas Trades Institute Gala fundraiser last Friday night at the Hibiscus Hall of the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

KIMBERLY BAUTISTA



NMTI chief executive officer Agnes McPhetres shares some remarks to start off the NMTI Gala fundraiser last Friday night at the Hibiscus Hall of the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

KIMBERLY BAUTISTA



Agnes McPhetres and Tanya Belyeu Camacho each welcome everyone who attended the NMTI Gala fundraiser last Friday night at the Hibiscus Hall of the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

KIMBERLY BAUTISTA



Hundreds were present to take part and support the NMTI Gala fundraiser last Friday night at the Hibiscus Hall of the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

KIMBERLY BAUTISTA



People who attended the NMTI Gala fundraiser line up for dinner last Friday night at the Hibiscus Hall of the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

KIMBERLY BAUTISTA



People line up to get dinner at the NMTI Gala fundraiser Friday night at the Hibiscus Hall of the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

KIMBERLY BAUTISTA



Imperial Pacific International, LLC presents a \$1,500 donation for the annual dinner fundraiser of NMTI, making the company a silver sponsor.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



docomo presents a \$1,500 donation for the annual dinner fundraiser of NMTI, making the company a silver sponsor.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Tinian Mayor Joey P. San Nicolas and Sens. Jude U. Hofsneider, Francisco Q. Cruz, and Francisco M. Borja present a gift to former Japan prime minister Yukio Hatoyama.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Tinian leaders visit ex-Japan PM Hatoyama

Tinian Mayor Joey P. San Nicolas and Sens. Jude U. Hofsneider, Francisco Q. Cruz, and Francisco M. Borja recently traveled to Tokyo, Japan, to meet with former Japan prime minister Yukio Hatoyama to discuss cultural exchange, tourism, and investment on Tinian.

"It was indeed a humbling experience to visit with Prime Minister Hatoyama. We talked about tourism and culture. He was very generous with his time," said San Nicolas.

Hatoyama served as prime minister from 2009 to 2010.

The purpose of the travel to

Japan was to promote Tinian's culture, people, and environment. The Tinian leadership hopes to forge stronger ties with Japan, thereby attracting more Japanese visitors to Tinian.

The leaders also met with members of the National Diet (the Japanese legislature) led by Rep. Koichi Kondo. The delegation members talked about the economy of Tinian and the CNMI economy in general as well as infrastructure developments on Tinian.

While in Japan, the leaders traveled to Shizuoka City where they were greeted by Shizuoka Rep. Kimihiko Na-

kazawa and representatives from the city port authority and tourism industry. A frequent visitor to the CNMI, Nakazawa stressed the importance of having direct flights from cities in Japan to Tinian. Other topics of discussion were the creation of a sister-city relationship with Shizuoka City and opening a Tinian office in Nagoya City. Both the Shizuoka and Tinian delegations agreed that they would explore possible culture exchange programs and sporting events for Shizuoka and Tinian youth.

It was San Nicolas' first official visit to Japan. (PR)

Public input sought on block grant use

By BEA CABRERA
bea_cabrera@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. hosted a public hearing last week to seek suggestions from the public on how it will spend a block grant.

The hearing on the Preventive Health and Health Services block grant was held at the CHCC Public Health and PHEPP conference room.

Non-Communicable Disease Bureau administrator Becky Robles said, "The hearing will discuss the 2017-2018 work plan proposals, welcomed suggestions from public, and how the block grant can be used toward the execution of the activities lined up."

The Preventive Health and Health Services block grant provides all 50 states, the Dis-

trict of Columbia, two American Indian tribes, and eight U.S. territories with funding to address their unique public health needs.

"We've had this grant for five years. Every year when the work plan needs to be approved, ...the grantors require that we have a public input how the funds are used and also an advisory committee to give ideas how the funding should be used," said Jessie Delos Reyes, renal dietitian and tobacco and diabetes technical adviser.

The grant comes from the Preventive Health and Health Services under the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the nation's health protection agency. The work plan has \$56,355 available. The activities under this block

grant are tied with healthy people 2020 objectives, which are national health promotion and disease prevention efforts to improve the health of all people in the United States.

This program gives grantees the flexibility to use funds to fill funding gaps in programs that deal with leading causes of death and disability.

"If there are restrictions on some grant that Public Health has, this grant can supplement and support some of those activities, like providing supplies and outreach, provided it falls under the guidelines of the grant," Delos Reyes added.

The proposed activities and objectives for fiscal year 2017-2018 include improved community wellness: the establishment of community garden, improving wellness access to

Tinian mayor and DPL file certified question about 'free trade zone' law

Tinian Mayor Joey P. San Nicolas and Public Lands Secretary Marianne Teregeyo submitted a joint petition for a certified question to determine the constitutionality of Public Law 12-20.

Public Law 12-20 authorizes public lands to be administered by the mayors of Rota, Tinian, and the Northern Islands as "free trade zones" and for the respective mayors to collect and administer revenues generated from the lease of such lands.

Teregeyo argues that, to the extent Public Law 12-20 authorizes public lands to be administered by the mayors of Rota, Tinian, and the Northern Islands, the law itself is unconstitutional because the

management and disposition of public lands is a constitutional responsibility bestowed upon the Executive Branch pursuant to Article 11, Section 4 of the CNMI Constitution. Furthermore, all revenues generated through the management of public lands shall be remitted to the Marianas Public Lands Trust pursuant to Article 11 Section 6. The law does not provide for revenues derived from public lands within free trade zones to be tendered to MPLT as mandated by Article 11 Section 6.

San Nicolas states that the Department of Public Lands must designate 30 hectares of public lands on Tinian for him to administer and collect revenues, whether such land is designated as a free trade zone

or not, pursuant to PL 12-20.

"In trying to exercise my authority authorized by PL 12-20, DPL has informed me that it is their position that the law is unconstitutional. The Secretary and I believe that it is in both DPL's and the respective municipalities' interest to jointly file the petition asking the court to make a determination on the constitutionality of the law," said San Nicolas. "The Tinian leadership is constantly looking for ways and opportunities to build our economy and to attract different types of investments on our island. We hope that this could be something that our island could capitalize on to create jobs outside of the gaming industry." (Saipan Tribune)



The Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant Committee is composed of Becky Robles, Jessica Delos Reyes, Amylynn Babauta, and Nazario Omar Ajoste.

BEA CABRERA

occupational health, youth empowerment, increased physical activity in the village clusters and encouraging healthier eating habits in the CNMI. The work plan also includes reducing the number of people with chronic kidney diseases.

"Hypertension and diabetes

are leading causes of kidney failure. Currently, 56 percent of the population in the CNMI suffers from hypertension and 37.5 percent of that are people ranging from 18 to 24 years old," said Amylynn Babauta, acting block grant coordinator.

A portion of the block grant

goes to rape prevention and victim services.

"The block grant has a set-aside funds that is given to address sexual assault by providing the CHCC hospital rape kits for sexual assault outpatient victims," said Delos Reyes.

Nation

Koch chief says health care bill insufficiently conservative

COLORADO SPRING, Colo. (AP)—Chief lieutenants in the Koch brothers' political network lashed out at the Senate Republican health care bill on Saturday as not conservative enough, becoming a powerful outside critic as GOP leaders try to rally support for their plan among rank-and-file Republicans.

Tim Phillips, who leads Americans For Prosperity, the Koch network's political arm, called the Senate's plans for Medicaid "a slight nip and tuck" of President Barack Obama's health care law, a modest change he described as "immoral."

"This Senate bill needs to get better," Phillips said. "It has to get better."

Some Republican senators have raised concern about cuts to Medicaid, which provides health care coverage to millions of poor and middle-income Americans. Several more conservative senators have voiced opposition because they feel it does not go far enough in dismantling what they call "Obamacare."

The comments came on the first day of a three-day private donor retreat at a luxury resort in the Rocky Mountains. Invitations were extended only to donors who promise to give at least \$100,000 each year to the various groups backed by

The plan to repeal and replace Obamacare

House Republicans voted for a plan to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act with a bill called the American Health Care Act, and Senate Republicans have released their version of the bill.

Affordable Care Act	House	Senate
Guaranteed coverage	Prohibited insurers from denying coverage to people with pre-existing conditions	Possible waivers to some rules regarding pre-existing conditions
Individual mandate	Required Americans to have health insurance, or pay a penalty on annual taxes	Requires insurers to charge consumers a 30% fee if they enroll after not having insurance for two months
Medicaid	Offered states money to expand Medicaid to poor childless adults	Phases out additional funding starting in 2020; replaces funding based on health care used by enrollees, to a fixed amount based on the number of enrollees in each state
Insurance marketplaces	Online markets allowing consumers to compare plans; plans on exchange required to provide certain basic benefits, and insurers are prohibited from imposing lifetime or annual limits on coverage and charging older consumers more than three times what they charge younger consumers	Preserves the marketplaces. Allows insurers to charge older consumers five times more, or more with a state waiver. States may seek a waiver on essential health benefits
Subsidies	Subsidies are provided to people making up to 400% of the poverty line who buy insurance on the marketplace. People who make less get larger subsidies than those who make an amount closer to the limit, and subsidies are also adjusted based on local health care costs	The subsidies are replaced with a tax credit based on age. People over 60 could get as much as \$4,000 annually, and credits could be as low as \$2,000 for people under 30. Credits would be phased out for higher income households.
Taxes	To pay for subsidies, new taxes on insurance and medical device companies were enacted; Medicare payroll taxes also increased for wealthy Americans	Repeal of tax increases

Source: Los Angeles Times reporting, Senate Budget Committee

the Koch brothers' Freedom Partners - a network of education, policy and political entities that aim to promote small government.

"When I look at where we are at the size and effectiveness of this network, I'm blown away," billionaire industrialist Charles Koch told hundreds of donors during an outdoor evening reception. His brother, David Koch, looked on from the crowd along with Sens. Mike Lee of Utah and Jeff Flake of Arizona.

"We've got to keep doing it at an accelerated pace," Charles Koch said.

No outside group has been more aggressive over the yearslong push to repeal Obama's health care law than the Kochs', who vowed on Saturday to spend another 10 years fighting to change the health care system if necessary. The Koch network has often displayed a willingness to take on Republicans—including President Donald Trump—when their policies aren't deemed conservative enough.

Network spokesman James Davis said the organization would continue to push for changes to the Senate health care bill over the coming week.

"At the end of the day, this bill is not going to fix health care," Davis declared.

The network's wishes are backed by a massive political budget that will be used to take on Republican law-

makers, if necessary, Phillips said.

He described the organization's budget for policy and politics heading into the 2018 midterm elections as between \$300 million and \$400 million. "We believe we're headed to the high end of that range," he said.

On Friday, Nevada Republican Dean Heller became the fifth GOP senator to declare his opposition to the Senate health care proposal. Echoing the other four, Heller said he opposes the measure "in this form" but does not rule out backing a version that is changed to his liking.

Heller, facing a competitive re-election battle next year, said he was opposing the legislation because of the cuts it would make in Medicaid.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., has said he's willing to alter the measure to attract support, and promised plenty of back-room bargaining as he tries pushing a final package through his chamber next week.

Republican leaders have scant margin for error. Facing unanimous Democratic opposition, McConnell can afford to lose just two of the 52 GOP senators and still prevail.

At least two of the current opponents, Lee and Texas Sen. Ted Cruz, were among 18 elected officials scheduled to attend the Koch retreat. Two more undecideds were also on the guest list: Flake and Nebraska Sen. Ben Sasse.

Family members: Seattle mom killed by police adored her kids

SEATTLE (AP)—Charleena Lyles loved to sing and dance. She adored her four children. She always smiled, even when facing obstacles.

Friends and family members say the 30-year-old pregnant woman shot and killed by police this week was so much more than authorities' account of an unstable person who confronted two officers with kitchen knives and had previous run-ins with the law.

The Seattle woman was kind and caring, and "if you

Conference: US mayors may shape national climate policy

MIAMI BEACH, Fla. (AP)—With the Trump administration's withdrawal from the Paris climate accords, national policy on climate change will emerge from U.S. cities working to reduce emissions and become more resilient to rising sea levels, New Orleans Mayor Mitch Landrieu said at the annual U.S. Conferences of Mayors meeting in Miami Beach.

The conference supported the Paris agreement, and according to preliminary results released Saturday morning from an on-

met her, you would be drawn in," said her older sister, Monika Williams.

"I don't care what she was going through or what anybody was trying to bring on her, she would hit it with a smile," Williams said.

Authorities noted the shooting happened less than two weeks after Lyles threatened officers with long metal shears, and family members expressed concerns about her mental health after that incident. Lyles also was arrested

in 2014 for assault.

Williams described her sister as a strong, independent woman.

Lyles, whom relatives called "Leena," grew up in Seattle and was largely raising two boys and two girls on her own—including a 4-year girl with Down syndrome—but she had a supportive network of siblings, cousins, aunts and others, Williams said.

"Her whole life was her kids," said her father, Charles Lyles, who owns an income-

tax preparation business and lives in Lancaster, California.

The youngest three children—ages 11, 4 and 1—were home when Lyles called police Sunday morning to report a burglary.

Before arriving at Lyles' apartment, the responding officers discussed Lyles' June 5 encounter with police and noted an "officer safety caution" at the address. Two officers, rather than one, went to the apartment because of her prior history with police.

Cities still have months to respond to the questionnaire on low-carbon transportation options, renewable energy and energy efficiency programs, but the data received so far from 66 cities in 30 states showed 90 percent were interested in forming partnerships with other local governments to create climate plans, implement transportation programs or procure equipment such as electric vehicles.

fuses to act or is just paralyzed, the cities themselves, through their mayors, are going to create a new national policy by the accumulation of our individual efforts," he said.

A May survey of local sustainability efforts, conducted by the conference and the Center for Climate and Energy Solutions, initially only included 80 mayors who hold leadership positions within the conference. It was extended to all conference members and the mayors of about 1,400 cities with populations of 30,000

COMMONWEALTH LOTTERY COMMISSION

PUBLIC NOTICE

A Special Meeting of the Commonwealth Lottery Commission will be held at 9 a.m. on Thursday, June 29, 2017 at the Juan Sablan Memorial Building on Capitol Hill, Saipan. The public is invited to attend.

The following is the proposed agenda:

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call/Determination of Quorum
- III. Public Comment
- IV. Adoption of Agenda
- V. Adoption of Minutes
- VI. New Business
 - A. Discussion on proposed amendments to exclusive casino license on the following items
 - a. The Live Training Facility 6 months extension
 - b. Initial Gaming Facility (IGF)
 - c. Community Benefit Fund
 - d. Implementation Schedules
 - e. Casino License Fee
 - B. Pocket Change Draw Proposal
- VII. Executive Session
- VIII. Adjournment

For further information, please contact the Lottery Commission by telephone through the Office of the Finance Secretary at 664-1100.

Asia

Death toll from Pakistan attacks climbs to 85

PESHAWAR, Pakistan

(AP)—The death toll from twin blasts in the northwestern town of Parachinar climbed to 67 Saturday, bringing the overall death toll from three separate attacks in Pakistan to 85, with several others in critical condition, officials said.

Shahid Khan, a government official in Parachinar, confirmed the toll Saturday, saying residents who had been preparing to celebrate the end of Ramadan and Eid feast were now in mourning.

He said during the day another 12 critically wounded died at different hospitals. Lashkar-e-Jhangvi, a Sunni extremist group, claimed the Friday twin bombings at a crowded market in the Shiite-dominated town, linking them to sectarian fighting in Syria.

Dr. Sabir Hussain, an official at a government-run hospital in Parachinar, said they had received 261 victims of the twin blasts, with 62 listed in critical condition.

Another 14 people were killed Friday in a suicide car bombing near the office of the provincial police chief in the southwestern city of Quetta, police spokesman Shahzada Farhat said. That attack was claimed by a breakaway Taliban faction and the Islamic State group. Gunmen in the port city of Karachi attacked police officers at a roadside restaurant, killing four of them before fleeing, senior police officer Asif Ahmed said.

Maj. Gen. Asif Ghafoor, a military spokesman, linked the attacks to alleged militant sanctuaries in neighboring



Injured victims of twin blasts in the northwestern town of Parachinar, are treated at a hospital in Peshawar, Pakistan, Saturday, June 24, 2017. AP

Hours after the attack, Jamaat-ul-Ahrar, a breakaway faction of the Pakistani Taliban, claimed responsibility. Later Friday, the IS group said in a competing claim that it was behind the attack, adding that one of its followers targeted the police post in Quetta, detonating his suicide belt there. It also released a photograph of the alleged attacker, identified as Abu Othman al-Khorasani.

Quetta is the capital of Baluchistan province, which has long been the scene of a low-level insurgency by Baluch nationalists and separatists, who want a bigger share of the region's resources or outright independence. Islamic militants have also carried out several attacks in the province.

Afghanistan and promised greater border security. The two countries often accuse each other of turning a blind eye to militants.

Security forces raided a militant hideout in the northwestern city of Peshawar before dawn Saturday, triggering a shootout in which

immediately known. But intelligence officials said one of the men has been identified as a wanted militant commander linked to IS. They spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to release the information.

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif condemned the attacks, which came just days before Eid-al-Fitr, the Muslim holiday that marks the end of the fasting month of Ramadan.

Parachinar, a majority Shiite town, has been targeted by Sunni militants group several times in recent years, leaving dozens dead.

Khan said the identity of the slain militants was not

In March, a car bomb exploded near a Shiite mosque in Parachinar, killing 24 people, mostly Shiites. In January, a bomb ripped through the crowded market of Parachinar, killing 22 people and wounded over 100. In December 2015, the same market was targeted by a suicide bomber, killing 22.

Friday's car bombing in Quetta could be heard across the city, and shattered the windows of nearby buildings, said police spokesman Shahzada Farhat. TV footage showed several badly damaged cars and a road littered with broken glass.

15 bodies found after landslide buries scores in China

MAO COUNTY, China

(AP)—Crews searching through the night in the rubble left by a landslide that buried a mountain village under tons of soil and rocks in southwestern China found 15 bodies, but more than 100 more people remained missing.

About 3,000 rescuers were using detection devices and dogs to look for signs of life in an area that once held 62 homes and a hotel, the official Xinhua News Agency reported.

"We won't give up as long as there is a slim of chance," the agency quoted an unidentified searcher as saying.

The provincial government of Sichuan on Sunday released the names of the 118 missing people. It's unclear if the 15 bodies have been identified.

Relatives were sobbing as

they awaited news of their loved ones. A woman in a nearby village told The Associated Press that she had no information on her relatives in Ximmo, the mountain village that was buried. She said she had only heard that body parts were found.

Xu Zhiwen, executive deputy governor of the Tibetan and Qiang Autonomous Prefecture of Aba, the region where the landslide struck early Saturday, said that all 142 tourists who were visiting a site in Ximmo have been found alive.

Three members of one family were located five hours after the landslide. Qiao Dashuai, 26, said he and his wife awoke to cries from their 1-month-old son around 5:30 a.m.

"Just after we changed the diaper for the baby, we heard a

big bang outside and the light went out," said Qiao. "We felt that something bad was happening and immediately rushed to the door, but the door was blocked by mud and rocks."

Qiao told state broadcaster CCTV his family was swept away by water as part of a mountain collapsed. He said they struggled against the flood of water until they met medical workers who took them to a hospital. His parents and other relatives were among the missing.

"It's the biggest landslide to hit this area since the Wenchuan earthquake," Wang Yongbo, an official leading one of the rescue efforts, told CCTV. Wang was referring to China's deadliest earthquake this century, a magnitude 7.9 tremor that struck Sichuan province

in May 2008, killing nearly 90,000 people.

Mao County, or Maoxian, sits on the eastern margin of the Tibetan plateau and is home to about 110,000 people. Most residents are of the Qiang ethnic minority.

The landslide buried 1.6 kilometers (1 mile) of road and blocked a 2-kilometer (1.2-mile) section of a river. The provincial government said on its website that an estimated 8 million cubic meters (282 million cubic feet) of earth and rock—equivalent to more than 3,000 Olympic-sized swimming pools—slid down the mountain.

Experts told CCTV that the landslide was likely triggered by rain. Search may be made easier Sunday as the weather service forecast a sunny day.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Overturned oil tanker explodes in Pakistan, killing 120

MULTAN, Pakistan (AP)—

An overturned oil tanker burst into flames in Pakistan on Sunday, killing more than 120 people who had rushed to the scene of the highway accident to gather leaking fuel, an official said. Rizwan Naseer, the head of the Punjab province's rescue services, said 122 people were killed and another 76 were wounded, with many suffering serious burns. The tanker flipped over on the national highway about 100 kilometers (60 miles) southwest of Multan. The tanker was driving from the southern port city of Karachi to Lahore, the Punjab provincial capital, when the driver lost control and crashed. Nearby villagers ran toward the overturned tanker with jerry cans to take the leaking fuel, said Naseer.

Police tried to cordon off the area but were overwhelmed by the scores of villagers who pushed through to reach the truck. Eyewitnesses said about 30 motorcycles that had carried villagers to the accident site lay in charred ruins nearby. Eight other vehicles were destroyed, they said.

PH troops declare 8-hour cease-fire in besieged city

MANILA, Philippines

(AP)—The Philippine military on Sunday began observing an eight-hour halt in its air and ground offensive against Islamic militants in southern Marawi city to allow residents, most of them displaced by the monthlong fighting, to celebrate the end of the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan. Military spokesman Brig. Gen. Resituto Padilla said the "humanitarian pause" in military assaults took effect at 6 a.m. Sunday in predominantly Muslim Marawi but will be lifted immediately if the militants open fire or threaten troops and civilians. "If the enemy starts firing ... anyone can exercise their right to self-defense," Padilla said in a statement. It's the first planned respite in the massive offensive after a month of daily street battles and military airstrikes that have left at least 280 militants, 69 soldiers and police, and 26 civilians dead. The intense fighting has turned large swaths of the mosque-dotted city, a bastion of Islamic faith in the south of the largely Roman Catholic nation, into a smoldering war zone. About 500 gunmen aligned with the Islamic State group, including several foreigners, stormed the lakeside city of 200,000 people, occupied buildings, burned schools and hoisted IS-style black flags on May 23.

World

Suicide bomber blows himself up as Saudis foil Mecca plot

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia (AP)—A suicide bomber blew himself up near the Grand Mosque in Mecca as police disrupted a plot to target the holiest site in Islam just as the fasting month of Ramadan ends, Saudi security forces said Saturday.

The Interior Ministry said it launched a raid around Jiddah, as well as two areas in Mecca itself, including the Ajyad Al-Masafi neighborhood, located near the Grand Mosque.

There, police said they engaged in a shootout at a three-story house with a suicide bomber, who blew himself up and caused the building to collapse. He was killed, while the blast wounded six foreigners and five members of security forces, according to the Interior Ministry's statement. Five others were arrested, including a woman, it said.

Saudi state television aired footage after the raid Friday near the Grand Mosque, showing police and rescue personnel running through the neighborhood's narrow streets. The blast demolished the building, its walls crushing a parked car. Nearby structures appeared to



This Friday, June 23, 2017 photo released by Saudi Press Agency, SPA, shows the scene of a suicide bombing after a police raid in Mecca, Saudi Arabia. AP

militants and ties to Iran. Qatar long has denied those allegations.

As the Interior Ministry announced the raid, over 1 million Muslim faithful prayed at the Prophet's Mosque in Medina to mark the end of Ramadan. In July 2016, a suicide bombing there killed four members of Saudi Arabia's security forces.

Millions of Muslims from around the world visit the mosque, the burial site of the Prophet Muhammad, every year as part of their pilgrimage. The same day in July, separate suicide bomb attacks targeted a Shiite mosque in eastern Saudi Arabia and near the U.S. Consulate in Jiddah.

The Grand Mosque has been the target of militants before, in part because it represents a symbol of the ruling Al Saud family's clout in the Islamic world. The Saudi monarch bears the title of "custodian of the two holy mosques."

In 1979, some 250 militants seized the mosque and held it for two weeks as they demanded the royal family abdicate the throne. When Saudi troops stormed the mosque, the official death toll was 229, including extremists and soldiers.

Egypt's president ratifies disputed Saudi islands pact

CAIRO (AP)—Egypt's president on Saturday ratified a disputed 2016 agreement under which his country would transfer control of two strategic Red Sea islands to Saudi Arabia, following through on his assertion earlier this week that the matter was closed.

News of President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi's ratification of the maritime border demarcation agreement with Saudi Arabia came in a Cabinet statement, which appeared to be carefully timed to head off, or at least delay, any street protests over the surrender of the islands, which the Egyptian government insists have always been Saudi.

It was issued shortly before sunset, when most were at or heading home to eat iftar - the meal with which Muslims break their fasts during their holy month of Ramadan.

A lunar month, Ramadan ends on Saturday and the three-day Muslim Eid al-Fitr holiday begins Sunday, with many Egyptians planning to take the whole week off to recover from grueling days of 16-hour fasts in sweltering summer heat.

"This matter has been closed and I am only bringing it up again because we have

been peppered with shrapnel and bullet holes.

The Interior Ministry said the thwarted "terrorist plan" would have violated "all sanctities by targeting the security of the Grand Mosque, the holiest

place on Earth."

"They obeyed their evil and corrupt self-serving schemes managed from abroad whose aim is to destabilize the security and stability of this blessed country," it said.

The ministry did not name the group involved in the attack. The ultraconservative Sunni kingdom battled an al-Qaida insurgency for years and more recently has faced attacks from a local branch of the Islamic State group. Neither group immediately claimed involvement, though

Parliament approved the agreement on June 14 amid chaotic scenes of shouting matches by lawmakers arguing over the deal, whose announcement during an April 2016 visit by Saudi King Salman sparked the largest street protests since el-Sissi took office in 2014. Parliament's approval of the deal sparked a series of small protests earlier this month, but they were swiftly broken up by security forces.

Authorities have meanwhile arrested at least 120 people who voiced opposition or took to the streets to protest the agreement. Most of them have since been freed.

The government maintains that the Saudis placed the two islands under Egypt's protection in the 1950's amid Arab-Israeli tension. Critics say the islands were transferred in exchange for billions of dollars of Saudi aid. The government denies the claim, insisting it would never cede Egyptian territory to anyone.

IS sympathizers online have urged more attacks as an offensive in Iraq slowly squeezes the extremists out of Mosul and their de facto capital of Raqqa in Syria comes under daily bombing from a U.S.-led coalition.

The disrupted attack comes at a sensitive time in Saudi Arabia. King Salman earlier this week short-circuited the kingdom's succession by making his son, Defense Minister Mohammed bin Salman, first in line to the throne.

The newly appointed 31-year-old crown prince is

the architect of Saudi Arabia's stalemated war in Yemen against Shiite rebels. He has also offered aggressive comments about the kingdom confronting Shiite power Iran.

Iran's Foreign Ministry on Saturday condemned the Mecca plot and said it remains willing to work with other countries in confronting terrorism.

Meanwhile, Saudi Arabia and other Arab countries have cut diplomatic ties to neighboring Qatar and are trying to isolate the energy-rich country over its alleged support of

UK finds 34 high-rise apartment buildings with unsafe siding

LONDON (AP)—Britain's fire-safety crisis expanded substantially Saturday as authorities said 34 high-rise apartment blocks across the country had cladding that failed fire safety tests. London officials scrambled to evacuate four public housing towers after experts found them "not safe for people to sleep in overnight."

Hundreds of residents hastily packed their bags and sought emergency shelter, with many angry and confused about the chaotic situation. Some refused to leave their high-rise apartments. Scores of evacuees slept on inflatable beds in a gym while officials sought better accommodations for them.

Camden Council leader Georgia Gould said it decided to evacuate four blocks in north London's Chalcots Estate late Friday after fire inspectors uncovered problems with "gas insulation and door stops," which, combined with the presence of flammable

cladding encasing the buildings, meant residents had to leave immediately.

The evacuation comes amid widening worries about the safety of high-rise apartment blocks across the country following the inferno that engulfed Grenfell Tower in west London on June 14, killing at least 79 people. Attention has focused on the 24-story tower's external cladding material, which has been blamed for the rapid spread of that blaze, but multiple other fire risks have now been identified in some housing blocks.

The government said Saturday that the cladding samples that failed fire safety tests came from 34 apartment towers in cities including London, Manchester, Plymouth and Portsmouth. Communities Secretary Sajid Javid said further testing "is running around the clock."

So far, Camden Council has been the only local authority to have asked

residents to leave as a precaution. It said about 650 apartments were evacuated, though initial reports put the figure at 800 apartments.

The council said residents would be out of their homes for three to four weeks while it completes fire-safety upgrades.

"I know some residents are angry and upset, but I want to be very clear that Camden Council acted to protect them," Gould said in a statement. "Grenfell changed everything, and when told our blocks were unsafe to remain in, we acted."

Conservative Prime Minister Theresa May, who has been criticized for her slow response to the Grenfell tragedy, said Saturday that the government was supporting Camden officials to ensure residents have somewhere to stay while building work is done.

In response, Jeremy Corbyn, leader of the opposition Labour Party, said May needed to "get a grip" and lead

a stronger response to what is now a "national threat."

Residents—including families with babies and elderly relatives—trooped out of the buildings late Friday night with suitcases and plastic bags stuffed with clothes. Council workers guided dozens to a nearby gym, where they spent the night on inflatable mattresses. Others were being put up in hotels or other housing projects.

Many residents complained about a lack of information and confusion. Officials first announced the evacuation of one building, then expanded it to five before reducing it to four. Some residents said they learned about the evacuation from the television news hours before officials came knocking on doors.

Renee Williams, 90, who has lived in Taplow Tower since 1968, told Britain's Press Association: "No official came and told us what's going on. I saw it on the TV, so I packed an overnight bag."

Focus

Kids today: They don't work summer jobs the way they used to

By PAUL WISEMAN
AP ECONOMICS WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP)—It was at Oregon's Timberline Lodge, later known as a setting in the horror movie "The Shining," where Patrick Doyle earned his first real paycheck.

He was a busboy. The job didn't pay much. But Doyle quickly learned lessons that served him for years as he rose to become the CEO of Domino's, the pizza delivery giant:

Show up on time, dress properly, treat customers well.

"I grew up a lot that summer," he says.

As summer 2017 begins, America's teenagers are far less likely to be acquiring the kinds of experiences Doyle found so useful. Once a teenage rite of passage, the summer job is vanishing.

Instead of baling hay, scooping ice cream or stocking supermarket shelves in July and August, today's teens are more likely to be enrolled in summer school, doing volunteer work to burnish their college credentials or just hanging out with friends.

For many, not working is a choice. For some others, it reflects a lack of opportunities where they live, often in lower-income urban areas: They sometimes find that older workers hold the low-skill jobs that once would have been available to them.

In July 1986, 57 percent of Americans ages 16 to 19 were employed. The proportion stayed over 50 percent until 2002 when it began dropping steadily. By last July, only 36 percent were working.

Economists and labor market observers worry that falling teen employment will deprive them of valuable work experience and of opportunities to encounter people of different ethnic, social and cultural backgrounds.

But the longer-term trend for teen employment is down and likely to stay that way for several reasons:

■ Teenagers and their parents are increasingly aware of the value of a college education. A result is that more kids are spending summers volunteering or studying, to prepare for college and compete for slots at competitive schools.

In July 1986, just 12 percent of Americans ages 16 to 19 were taking summer classes. Thirty years later, the share had risen to 42 percent.

"Parental emphasis on the rewards of education has contributed to the decline in teen



In this Tuesday, May 23, 2017, photo, from left, Ben Testa, Abby McDonough and Hannah Waring work preparing strawberry pails at Wegmeyer Farms in Hamilton, Va.

labor force participation," Teresa Morisi, a Labor Department economist, concluded in a February report on teen employment, which has been declining in the United States and other wealthy countries.

Nathan Miller, 19, of New Berlin, Wisconsin, didn't work throughout high school, choosing instead to play baseball and spend time with his family. He's forgoing summer employment again this year to play baseball and take a certified nursing assistant course at a high school.

Miller, who starts college in the fall, thinks the course may give him an edge in his quest to become a doctor.

"I'm going to try to get as much hours as I can as early as possible to get as much advantage as I can to get into a competitive med school," he says. "It's a competition out there."

■ Teens who do want to work can find that older workers are standing in the way.

The summer jobs teens used to take - flipping burgers, unpacking produce at the grocery store, cashiering at the mall - are increasingly filled by older, often foreign-born, workers. In 2000-2001, teens accounted for 12 percent of retail workers, researchers at Drexel University found. Fifteen years later, it was just 7 percent. Over the same period, the teenage share of restaurant and hotel jobs fell from 21 percent to 16 percent.

Americans increasingly keep working even as they

near traditional retirement age - sometimes taking entry-level jobs to provide income as they transition to full-time retirement. Foreign-born workers have also increased their share of jobs in hotels and restaurants that require little education.

Many employers view older workers as more reliable - more likely to show up on time, or at all, and to better know how to handle customers, co-workers and suppliers.

■ Many school districts have lengthened their academic years to try to boost student achievement, in the process shrinking summer vacation and the chance for teens to find work even if they want to. School years now often don't end well into June and resume before Labor Day.

"With a shorter summer off from school, students may be less inclined to get a summer job, and employers may be less inclined to hire them," Morisi writes.

The picture varies, of course, across demographic and racial lines. In poor urban neighborhoods, teens who want work struggle to find it. The summer jobs they used to get - scarce in the best of times - now often go to adults.

In wealthier areas, teens are more likely to be attending summer school, doing volunteer work, traveling with their families or pursuing sports or other extracurriculars.

In Loudoun County, Virginia, an affluent suburb of Washington, many businesses say

they struggle to find teens willing and able to work summers.

"They're busy," says Tyler Wegmeyer, who raises fruits and vegetables and runs a pick-your-own farm in the Loudoun town of Hamilton. "They've got activities. They've got camps. Their families go on vacation. It's very rare I can get a kid to work all summer long."

A few years ago, Marty Potts' family, which has farmed in Loudoun County for decades, had to abandon its dairy operation, which requires many laborers, to focus on beef farming, which requires fewer. Even so, she says, "It's been two years since we've been able to get anybody."

Not until now has Collin Shipp, 18, who just graduated

from Loudoun's Woodgrove High School, ever looked for a summer job. A high school athlete, he spent previous summers trying to shave his time in the 400-meter dash and improving his distance in the triple jump.

"Track was my job," he says.

Paul Harrington, Neeta Fogg and Ishwar Khatiwada of Drexel's Center for Labor Markets and Policy studied average teen employment rates from June through August. They found that the percentage of employed 16-to-19-year-olds fell from 45 percent in 1986 to 30 percent last year. (Their numbers are lower than the July-only figures because teens are less likely to work in June and August.)



In this Tuesday, May 23, 2017, photo, Hannah Waring, left, a student at Loudoun Valley High School, and Abby McDonough, a student at Liberty University, work in the strawberry stand at Wegmeyer Farms in Hamilton, Va.

They forecast that teens' June-August employment rate will reach 30.5 percent this year, surpassing 30 percent for the first time since the recession year of 2009 and evidence of an overall improved job market.

But it's still a lot lower than it used to be. Drexel's Harrington laments the decline of summer employment for teens. In addition to providing on-the-job experience, summer work has proved especially valuable for poor urban youths. Harrington cites research showing that city teens who participate in summer jobs programs achieve higher school attendance and academic performance and are less likely to commit crimes.

The value of summer work is hardly confined to American teens. Emily Lyons, CEO of Femme Fatale Media Group, which provides models and dancers for corporate events, recalls a summer job that wasn't exactly pleasant.

The job stank. Literally.

Lyons spent the summer of 1998 working part time on an Ontario garlic farm, picking, sorting and packing the pungent plants.

"It was hard, dirty and strong-smelling work," she recalls. In business, she discovered, "you have to be able to wear many hats and be willing to get your hands dirty. You can't be too good for any role."

Lyons carried those lessons—and experience from other youthful jobs as a nanny, a hotel housekeeper and a blueberry picker—into a career as an entrepreneur and eventually to her current post as a chief executive.

"Every job along the way taught me different lessons that I carry with me today," she says.

Health & Fitness

When adolescent psychiatrist Dr. Drew Pate counsels patients or speaks to parenting groups, questions about social media use inevitably arise.

Parents wonder if their children's constant use of Instagram, Facebook or Snapchat is healthy. Teenagers talk about the pressure to post the perfect photo or compete with the pristine lives their peers present on the internet.

"When you talk to parents and see kids in the office, we hear more and more about the potential damage being caused by social media outlets," said Pate, who works for Sheppard Pratt Health System. "I think almost any adolescent who is involved in any social media has probably had some negative effect from it."

Researchers and scientists still are trying to figure out how social media use affects young people. So far the evidence is mixed and there's no broad consensus on the long-term consequences of excessive social media use.

Studies have shown the around-the-clock world of social media takes a mental and emotional toll on some young people. It has been linked to increased anxiety, depression and decreased relationship skills. One study found social media can be more addictive than cigarettes and alcohol for some people.

Social media also can have a positive affect, however. Some research has found that social media can be a resource for teens to find social support when they are struggling with life issues, and that they can use the different online platforms as a way to express themselves. Some teens are able to build friendships and relationships through the interaction they have with others on the internet.

A study published earlier this year by the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine with support from the National Institutes of Health found that the more time young adults spent on social media the more likely they were to have problems sleeping and experience symptoms of depression.

Another study by the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health found that incidents of major depressive incidents have increased dramatically among teens, particularly among girls, and that cyberbullying may be playing a role.

At American University, researchers found a link between social media use and negative body image, which can lead to eating disorders.

And in a recent survey of young people con-

Healthy Living

Skinny veggies

If you're counting calories, lettuce and celery are two satisfying additions to your diet that provide fiber, vitamins and minerals.

Leaf lettuce	Celery
100 g	120 g

Calories	16	18
Carbs	4 g	3 g

Vitamins, minerals	A, C, K; thiamin; riboflavin; folate; potassium
	A, C, K; folate; potassium

Source: U.S. Food and Drug Administration, Nutrition Data.com



Research offers mixed messages on the impact of social media on adolescent emotional health

By ANDREA K. MCDANIELS
THE BALTIMORE SUN/TNS



ANTONIO GUILLEM/DREAMSTIME/TNS

Researchers and scientists still are trying to figure out how social media use affects young people. So far, the evidence is mixed.

ducted by The Royal Society for Public Health in London, Instagram and Snapchat were found to be the worst for adolescents and their mental health. The poll asked 1,479 people aged 14 to 24 to rate social media apps on issues such as body image and anxiety.

The survey report said young women in particular are bombarded with edited images that mask people's flaws and imperfections.

"This practice is contributing to a generation

it is, the quicker and the greater the chance of an addiction," said Dr. Bankole Johnson, chairman of the University of Maryland School of Medicine's department of psychiatry and director of its brain science consortium research unit. "If you were gambling and you increase your frequency of gambling, the greater chance of becoming addicted to gambling."

But some experts warn against painting the impact of social media with broad brush

strokes. And researchers point to studies that have found beneficial effects.

Another study by the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health found that social media helped teenagers who played video games excessively and suffered from symptoms of depression. Heavy gamers who had a network of friends on social media seem to be immune to the problems suffered by some who played the games a lot and didn't have similar social networks, said researcher Michelle Collier Carras, a post-doctoral fellow in the Bloomberg School's department of health.

"Engaged gamers play a lot but don't necessarily have problems with video game addiction, depression or anxiety," she said.

Carras said that care needs to be taken when making a direct link between mental health and social media use. She said the survey by The Royal Society for Public Health doesn't show that the social media caused anxiety and other issues. It didn't delve into whether the teenagers already had mental health problems or if those problems could have been linked to something else.

"The problem with teenagers is they are much more in the moment and not as forward thinking as we get to be as adults," said Pate, pointing out that the human brain is not fully developed until about age 25.

One psychiatrist with the University of Maryland Medical System believes that excessive social media use should be designated formally as an addiction so that official guidelines on its use could be established.

"The more rapid and the more image loaded

"They just went out and talked to young peo-

ple about their feelings about the social media platform," she said.

Researchers with the National Center for Telehealth & Technology, one of the Department of Defense's Centers of Excellence for Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury, said social media can help promote suicide prevention information, such as hotlines and support groups. But they said the overall negative and positive impacts that social media can have are not yet clear.

"More research is needed on the degree and extent of social media's negative and positive influences, as are evaluations of the effectiveness of social media-based suicide prevention programs," the researchers wrote in an analysis published in the American Journal of Public Health.

The Royal Society listed several suggestions it says could ease the affects of social media on the emotional health of teenagers. Sites like Instagram could highlight when people have digitally altered their image or post warnings about the dangers of too much social media use, the group said. It also suggested that schools teach safe social media use and called for more studies to be conducted on how it affects the mental health of teenagers.

The University of Maryland's Johnson said social media-related emotional problems in teenagers are often detected when they have other problems, such as learning and behavioral difficulties.

Some teenagers might need to be weened off social media completely if it is causing intense emotional issues, Pate said.

Others might need regulated or tightened security measures so they are only socializing with a select group of people. Parents can help by monitoring and limiting the amount of time their children spend on social media.

"It boils down to what the kids can manage and handle when it comes to the stress created by these sites," he said. "We want the kids to individualize their own approach."

This advertorial is sponsored by
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Life & Style



This image released by Netflix shows Seo-Hyun Ahn as Mija and the character Okja in a scene from "Okja." AP

For 'Okja,' growing a GMO pig from page to screen

NEW YORK (AP)—The giant genetically modified pig of Bong Joon Ho's "Okja" is 8-feet tall, 13-feet long and would, if real, weigh six tons. It looks most like a hippo, but it has big floppy dog ears and moves a little like an elephant.

It's a hybrid creature for a hybrid movie. Like the South Korean director's previous films ("Snowpiercer," "The Host"), "Okja" is a mishmash of genres: magical fantasy and grotesque political satire. It's a cross between Spielberg and slaughterhouse.

Since its debut at the Cannes Film Festival, "Okja" has been thrust into debates over Netflix's impact on traditional moviegoing. Most large movie theater chains in North America and Bong's native South Korea have refused to screen a film that will simultaneously hit Netflix's streaming service.

But on screens large or small, the animal named Okja is a wonder to behold. She snorts and slobbers, does running belly-flops into lakes and shoots poop like a low-caliber machine gun. Up until now, Netflix original films have been largely lower budget affairs or documentaries. The giant pig of "Okja" is Netflix's first special-effect marvel.

The largely English-language, international film, made for \$50 million, boasts a cast of Tilda Swinton, Jake Gyllenhaal and Paul Dano.

But the heart of it is a young Korean girl named Mija (An Soo Hyun) and her loyal pig companion. After ten years raising Okja, the corporation that created these "super pigs" wants them back.

Here's how she was created:

INITIAL INSPIRATION

While in Seoul in 2011, Bong's eye caught an animal on the street with a melancholy look. The image stuck with him.

"The very beginning was from the image of the animal," says Bong. "The face of the animal looked quite sad in my imagination. Sad and shy and a little bit in pain. So I was thinking of why? What's the reason she has such a sad face? What's the origin and destiny of that animal? Naturally, those industry things come in."

Bong began sketching the animal that would become Okja. When he first mentioned the film to Swinton (they were

driving to the airport after the Seoul premiere of "Snowpiercer") he merely showed her a pencil drawing of the animal.

NEW AND OLD COLLABORATORS

To flesh out his own sketches, Bong turned to Jang Heechul, the conceptual artist who designed the monster of the director's 2007 thriller "The Host." Bong calls Jang, whose monster for "The Host" looked like a bottom-feeding fish but with legs, "a young genius."

He's no less effusive about visual effects supervisor Erik-Jan De Boer, the Oscar-winning animator who crafted the tiger Richard Parker in Ang Lee's "Life of Pi."

"He's crazy about animals," says Bong. "He goes into the butcher shop and he studies the cuts and the crevices of animal parts. Others usually just look at the outer exterior, but Erik conceived Okja with not just the skin but the arteries, the blood, the fat and the bone structure."

They first met in late 2014. Bong showed him the concept work but didn't yet have a script ready. "That was a pretty interesting meeting, being shown that crazy design and having no idea where the story was going to go," says De Boer.

BEAGLE BRAINSTORMING

De Boer quickly began riffling through YouTube videos to study different animal behaviors, but some of his research was more hands on. Swinton's springer spaniel Rosie (one of her four) was an inspiration. A beagle also largely informed Okja's ears and hang-dog look.

"For ears, we looked at canines and elephants. For the skin, we looked at hippos and manatees and also elephants a little bit. For behavior and some of the intelligence and connection with the owner, we looked again at canines and Labradors and beagles, especially," said De Boer. "It's a hybrid of references we used to make this hybrid of an animal."

Bong was particularly fond of a YouTube video about a hippo named Jessica living in a house. They also photographed hippos to get a more sinewy skin. Pigs, ironically, were less of an influence because of Okja's size.

IN CELEBRATION OF HER NEW LIFE

+Dolores Lizama Babauta Castro

Lovingly known as "LING"

Born to Life on February 14, 1936

Called to Eternal life on June 22, 2017

In her new life, she now joins her:

PARENTS: †Joaquin Cruz Babauta & Rufina Quitugua Lizama

PARENTS IN-LAW: †Jose Villagomez Castro & Rosa Cabrera Manibusan

HUSBAND: †Marceliano Manibusan Castro

CHILDREN: †Francisco Babauta Castro

†Alicia Castro Manglona

†Isabel T. Castro

†Nora A. Castro

BROTHERS / SISTERS & IN-LAW:

†Felix L. Babauta & Juana Camacho

†Serafin L. Babauta

†Benjamin L. Babauta

†Soledad L. Babauta & Jose Pangelinan

†Maria L. Babauta & Jose San Miguel

†Augustin M. Castro

BROTHERS IN-LAW / SISTERS IN-LAW & SPOUSE:

†Manuel M. & Maria Castro

†Nicolasa M. Castro & Lorenzo Robert

†Francisco M. & Rosa Castro

†Elizabeth C. & Francisco DLGuerrero

†Lee Porter

Her memories will forever live in the hearts of her:
CHILDREN & FAMILIES:

†Francisco B. & Teresita B. Castro & children

Juan B. & Rosa C. Castro & children

Martin C. & Maggie Muna & children

Roman C. & Cecilia Gapach & children

†Alicia C. & John M. Manglona & children

Lolita C. & Jose C. Mafnas & children

Jesus B. & †Nora A. Castro & children

Antonio B. & Maricar Castro & daughter

Vicente B. & Lucy C. Castro & children

Augustina C. & Augustin C. Kaneshi & children

Jose B. & Faye M. Castro & children

Rita C. & Vicente S. Aguto & children

Chassie C. & Rodney Tarkong & children

She will be greatly missed by her:

SISTERS, BROTHER & SISTERS IN-LAW:

Maria C. Porter & family

Rita B. Castro & family

Nieves L. Babauta & family

Juan L. & Manuela DLG. Babauta & family

Araceli A. Babauta & family

She is additionally survived by her grandchildren, great – grandchildren, numerous nieces and nephews, and godchildren.

Mass of Intention is being offered Monday to Friday at 6:00 pm followed by Holy Rosary at San Roque Church. On Saturday, mass is offered at 6:00 am and the Holy Rosary at 6:00 pm. On Sunday, mass is celebrated at 7:00 am and 9:00 am and recite the Holy Rosary at 6:00 pm.

Funeral Services will be held on Friday, June 30, 2017. Her remains will be escorted from Nuestra Senora dela Paz Memorial Chapel at 7:30 am to San Roque Church. Responso Service and Holy Rosary will take place upon arrival of remains. Mass of Christian Burial will be offered at 10:00 am followed by the interment service at Mount Carmel Cemetery where she will be at a peaceful rest.

Please join us in prayers,
Thank you - Si Yu'u Ma'a'e

Children and families of the late

+Marceliano Manibusan Castro and +Dolores Babauta Castro

Gaga on gay pride: It's a time to shine light on equality

NEW YORK (AP)—Lady Gaga, a longtime supporter of gay rights, says pride weekend is a time to shine a light on equality.

"This weekend is a time for us all to reflect on the importance of tolerance and the importance of bravery and kindness, (and) the importance of us supporting one another," the pop star said in an interview with The Associated Press on Friday.

The pride parade in New York City, Gaga's hometown, kicks off Sunday.

The Grammy-winning performer, like Madonna, Cher and others before her, has a strong gay fan base who cred-

its the singer with pushing gay rights to the forefront.

Gaga said she's touched to witness the "beautiful pride that I see so many of friends and the LGBTQ community have."

"It's a beautiful pride that we all should be in awe of," she added.

Sunday's parade in Manhattan, which starts on Fifth Avenue, ends in the West Village.

In this Feb. 5, 2017 file photo, singer Lady Gaga performs during the halftime show of the NFL Super Bowl 51 football game between the New England Patriots and the Atlanta Falcons, in Houston.



Lionel Richie: Tour with Mariah Carey will be 'camp city'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Lionel Richie is welcoming full diva behavior from Mariah Carey when she joins his "All the Hits" tour next month.

Richie jokes that he expects Carey to bring along a massive entourage and might need a "dressing room larger than the arena," but that's no problem.

"I wanted her to feel in her element," Richie says. "And a diva has to do what a diva has to do."

The Grammy- and Oscar-winning singer-songwriter says he invited Carey on tour because of her discography of hits and campy vibe.

"It's going to be camp city," Richie says. "And I told her, 'Bring all the camp with you.'"

Richie and Carey's 22-show tour launches July 21



in Oakland. Richie postponed the tour's start in February so he could fully recover from a knee procedure and says he now feels great.

The 68-year-old father of three—who says he's writing a book called 'How to Survive Your Children'—is accustomed to dramatics. He says his daughter Nicole started her acting career as a teenager at home anytime she denied wrongdoing. Now she's earning praise for her comedic turn in the NBC sitcom "Great News."

"She has the command of what she wants to portray," Richie says of his eldest child. "If it's dramatic, boy can she be dramatic. And just funny. That's a natural."

NBC's "Great News" returns for its second season in September.

Al Capone song, pocket watch fetch over \$100K at auction

BOSTON (AP)—Artifacts connected to some of the nation's most notorious gangsters sold for more than \$100,000 at auction Saturday.

A diamond pocket watch that belonged to Al Capone and was produced in Chicago in the 1920s, along with a handwritten musical composition he wrote in Alcatraz in the 1930s, were among the items that sold at the "Gangsters, Outlaws and Lawmen" auction. The watch fetched the most—

\$84,375—according to Boston-based RR Auction.

The winning bidder of the watch was not identified. The buyer is a collector who has an eye for interesting American artifacts, said RR Auction Executive Vice President Bobby Livingston. He was among about 30 internet, telephone and in-person bidders.

Capone's musical piece entitled "Humoresque" sold for \$18,750. The piece shows Capone's softer side. It contains the lines: "You thrill and

fill this heart of mine, with gladness like a soothing symphony, over the air, you gently float, and in my soul, you strike a note."

Livingston told The Associated Press he wasn't surprised that lyrics written by a man better known for organized crime than his musical talents sold at the auction because of the way Capone "resonates in the American imagination."

"The musical artifact gives insight into who this man was," Livingston said. "It hu-

manizes him, and shows that he had an imagination and creativity. These people had talents and they used those talents, unfortunately for criminal endeavors."

Livingston was referring not just to Capone, but to infamous couple Bonnie and Clyde. An autographed "So Long" letter written by Bonnie Parker and signed by Clyde Barrow just before their deaths sold for \$16,250. A pair of Texas arrest warrants fetched \$8,125.

Schwarzenegger talks climate change with French president

PARIS (AP)—Former California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger says the environment shouldn't be a partisan issue.

The actor-turned-Republi-can politician told reporters in Paris on Friday that he had a "wonderful" one-hour meet-

ing with French President Emmanuel Macron. Schwarzenegger says he and Macron, a centrist, discussed climate change.

"We all breathe the same," he said after Macron saw him to the steps of the presidential Elysee Palace.

Schwarzenegger has publicly sparred with U.S. President Donald Trump, a fellow Republican and "Apprentice" host who is withdrawing the U.S. from a global climate accord reached in Paris and taken jabs at Schwarzenegger's

TV ratings.

Before leaving the Elysee, the former Hollywood star went back up the palace steps to give first lady Brigitte Macron a kiss on the cheek.

Schwarzenegger received France's Legion of Honor in April.

Hospice volunteer's woeful tales wear her family down

DEAR ABBY: My mother has been a hospice volunteer for six months. I think that's great. The problem is, all she ever talks about anymore is the families and patients she helps. I'm tired of coming home from school or work and hearing about her latest patient's family drama or the details about how they died. My grandmother, who also lives with us, is burned out from it, too.

I have changed the subject or asked her politely several times not to continue telling me these stories, to no avail. I have also mentioned that it is a violation of HIPAA laws, but her answer is, "Not if I don't tell you their names, and you don't repeat these stories."

My boyfriend doesn't like to come over anymore because he thinks her stories are morbid. I even overheard Mom telling these stories to the yard man recently. Moving out is not an option, or I would already be gone. Help!

TIRIED OF MORBID STORIES

DEAR TIRED: Your mother is doing extremely stressful work. It's possible she needs to vent to relieve it. However, for her to repeatedly dump on you (and the gardener!?) is wrong.

That said, there's no law you have to listen, so if she per-

sists, get up and leave the room. I agree that what she's doing is a violation of HIPAA, which could cost her her position, so suggest that if she needs to "de-stress," she should go jogging or buy a treadmill and do it that way, or keep a journal.

DEAR ABBY: I'm in my mid-20s. I've done a lot in my life that I'm proud of. But one nagging issue I have is that I have never been in a relationship or even been kissed.

At first I felt proud of my independence and for not throwing myself into silly relationships. But as I see my friends enter new phases of their lives that I haven't experienced -- a first kiss, a significant other, love and marriage—it's increasingly harder to not feel left behind.

I have a hard time talking to my friends about it because I don't want them to think of me as self-pitying. If the subject arises, I make a flippant comment and move on.

I have tried waiting for the other person to make the first move. I have also tried being bold and direct. I throw myself into work and hobbies. But when every song, TV show and movie fixates on romantic love, it's hard to not personalize it.

In addition to asking for your advice, I'd like to pose a question to your readers: Are any of you in the same boat? And if so,

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



what do you do to cope?

TRYING TO COPE IN WASHINGTON

DEAR TRYING: It's time to talk frankly with your male and female friends and ask them for some honest input. I don't know whether you are simply a late bloomer—many people are—or whether you are trying too hard and sending out "desperate" signals that drive people away. But of this I AM certain: You are not alone in this lonely boat. Readers?

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

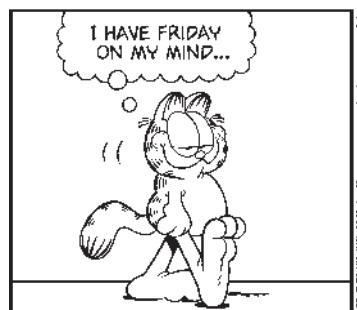
Calvin and Hobbes



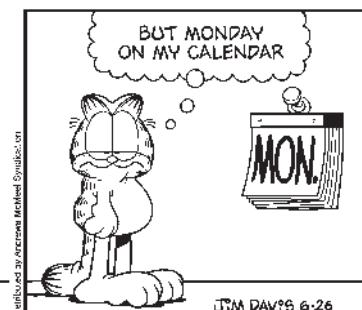
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IT ALMOST FEELS LIKE WE'RE MARRIED. KNOW WHAT I MEAN?



By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	36	Jiggly dessert	4	Sanford of "The Jeffer-sons"	23	Pocket breads
1	Wine region	37 Willowy	25	Exquisite	26	Thwart
5	Fuel stat	40 Tin Man's need	5	Naturalist John	27	Roll up
8	Coffee, slangily	41 LP player	6	Expert	29	Heart of the matter
12	Books of syn-yonyms	42 Work break	7	Card game for two	31	Altar affirmitive
14	Second-hand	43 Initial chip	8	Exactly	33	Easter flowers
15	Work break	48 Short joke	9	"Be that — may ..."	34	Wisconsin city
16	iPhone voice	49 Disarray	10	Aloe —	36	Jack's companion
17	Soap unit	50 Kangaroo's kid	11	Tennis score	37	Counterfeit
18	Wicker material	51 Father's Day gifts	13	Slightly	38	Tarzan's transport
20	Velocity	DOWN	19	Writer James	39	New newts
23	Boxers	1 Off-roader	20	Lanka (Abbr.)	40	Sandwich treat
24	Hot dog holder	21 Ritz	21	Na Na	43	Half of dos
25	Work break	22 Ticklish	22	Sleuth	44	Numerical prefix
28	Doctrine	23 Sleuth Muppet	23	Muppet	45	"My word!"
29	"I'm stumped!"	Solution time: 26 mins.	24		46	Storefront sign abbr.
30	Overseas agreement?		25			
32	Work break		26			
34	Audubon subject		27			
35	Egyptian deity		28			



CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Ariana Grande, 24; Ryan Tedder, 38; Derek Jeter, 43; Chris O'Donnell, 47.

Happy Birthday: Be open to trying new things, but don't make yourself vulnerable to anyone who tries to take advantage of you. Follow your intuition and use your imagination, and you will choose a path that will lead to personal growth, greater satisfaction and love. It's up to you to get the ball rolling. Avoid excess and people who are a poor influence. Your numbers are 4, 10, 18, 25, 27, 38, 42.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Listen attentively. What you think and what's actually happening might differ. Honesty and patience will lead to greater respect and a better life. Don't let anger affect an important relationship. Offer peace and love, not discord.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Put in the time to exercise and take better care of your health, diet and the way you present yourself to the world. Let your imagination help you stand out with dignity, grace and a whole lot of class.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Look over your financial situation and how you earn your living. It's important to be realistic when it comes to your spending habits. An opportunity will pop up if you connect with someone you have worked with in the past.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Sign up for a course or dig up information about your family tree. Expanding your interests and your skills will send you down a new path that will

encourage personal growth and new beginnings. Romance and helping others are favored.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Bring about change. Do your thing and do it in a big way. Your ability to stand out and get things going could lead to controversy, but that might be what it takes to persuade others to see things your way.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): What you do for others will bring you satisfaction as the compliments, well-wishes and acknowledgement of your efforts flood in. Spending time celebrating your victory with someone you love is encouraged.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Refrain from making snap decisions that could jeopardize your position at home or at work. Keep your life as simple as possible and choose moderation over excess. Be part of the solution, not part of the problem.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Don't sweat the small stuff. Stay focused on the here and now and what you can do to achieve your dreams. Use your imagination and get creative with the way you go about getting things accomplished. Communication is encouraged.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Work hard to bring about change. Pick up information, learn new skills and communicate with people who can offer sound advice. Network, socialize and spend a little downtime with your friends and family.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Look at what you have and consider what you need. Getting rid of items you no longer use will free up space. Cutting back on clutter will motivate you to start something new.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Take any chance you get to explore something new. What you learn today will help you develop a lucrative plan for the future. A change you make might not sit well with someone you love. Explain your reasoning before you proceed.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Pick up the pace. Dealing with personal or professional matters should be done with moderation in mind. A creative solution will help you keep your costs down and also give others a chance to see your capabilities.

Birthday Baby: You are affectionate, imaginative and possessive. You are lighthearted and energetic.

Eugenia's websites — eugenialast.com for Ask Eugenia, daily timing and compatibility services, and join Eugenia on twitter/facebook/linkedin.

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

			5	9	8	4					
7	5	2		1							
4			7		2						
			1			7					
4	6				3	1					
2		5									
3	9			4							
8		6		9	2						
5	6	9	8								

Difficulty Level ★

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer

8	2	1	4	5	3	7	9	6
4	7	9	6	1	2	3	8	5
6	3	5	7	9	8	4	1	2
5	9	3	2	6	7	1	4	8
2	1	4	8	3	9	6	5	7
7	6	8	5	4	1	2	3	9
3	5	7	1	8	6	9	2	4
9	8	2	3	7	4	5	6	1
1	4	6	9	2	5	8	7	3

Difficulty Level ★★★★

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

VESPERS PRAYERS

G	A	T	A	E	H	W	X	O	D	O	H	T	R	O
G	N	S	H	G	N	I	S	T	N	I	O	P	P	A
N	E	I	A	A	L	N	A	N	G	L	I	C	A	N
I	S	D	N	C	N	E	U	G	O	G	A	N	Y	S
Y	N	O	C	E	R	K	C	E	R	E	M	O	N	Y
A	O	H	I	G	V	A	S	E	T	Y	L	O	C	A
R	P	T	T	L	T	E	M	G	F	A	S	T	T	R
P	S	E	P	H	U	T	N	E	I	U	L	L	S	M
P	E	M	O	I	A	T	T	I	N	V	I	E	A	E
R	R	L	C	B	H	E	H	D	T	T	I	R	E	N
E	I	A	B	B	S	S	A	E	A	N	A	N	F	I
C	L	A	I	N	U	Y	R	N	R	M	A	L	G	A
E	H	B	U	S	S	I	Y	O	A	A	①	Z	A	N
S														

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Job Site: Saipan

Applicants must be licensed to practice law in the CNMI in the private sector. Interested applicants should report or send resumes to us. Our office is located at Suite 201, Marianas Business Plaza, Susupe, Saipan. Our mailing address is P.O. Box 501969, Saipan, MP 96950, and our email is cnmi@pacificlawyers.law.

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Interested applicants may send their applications to ceti_recruitment@tanholdings.com. To be considered, applications must be submitted not later than **5:00PM on July 03, 2017**. Applications for Employment are available at the Front Office of Century Tours Inc. located on the Ground Floor of Kanoa Resort, Beach Road, Susupe Village. Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

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Timberwolves get All-Star Jimmy Butler from Bulls



MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Ever since Tom Thibodeau took over in Minnesota last summer, a reunion with Chicago Bulls All-Star Jimmy Butler seemed destined to happen.

For the coach that desperately wanted a defensive-minded veteran to set the tone for a talented young roster, and for the player who only truly realized what he had in that hard-driving leader after he was gone.

"It's been something that over a prolonged period of time there have been different moments where he's had to consider it and think about it," Butler's agent, Bernie Lee, told The Associated Press. "In some ways it feels like it was spoken into reality."

In the blockbuster move of draft night, the Bulls traded Butler and the 16th overall pick Thursday night to the Timberwolves for Zach LaVine, Kris Dunn and the No. 7 overall pick as the Wolves try to finally put an end to a 13-year playoff drought.

The trade brings together Butler and Wolves coach and president Thibodeau, who coached the Bulls for five seasons before being fired in 2015. Thibodeau helped Butler become an All-NBA performer and earn a \$95 million contract and Butler helped Thibodeau instill the brass-knuckle mentality into those Bulls teams.

"The longer you are with somebody, the more deposits you have with each other, the trust is there," Thibodeau said. "You're not afraid to tell them the truth. So I think I know him well. I know the things that are important to him. I know he wants to win. And he wants to win big."

Now they're together again, trying to lead a franchise that has not made the playoffs since 2004.

"It's one of those moments where the excitement of tonight has to carry forward to the work that has to come," Lee said. "And



AP

In this April 23, 2017, file photo, Chicago Bulls' Jimmy Butler (21) is fouled by Boston Celtics' Isaiah Thomas during the second half in Game 4 of an NBA basketball first-round playoff series in Chicago.

if it does, it will really be a beautiful thing to see."

The Wolves paid a big price: Besides surrendering the lottery pick, they gave up a rising star in LaVine, who is coming off of a torn ACL and Dunn, last year's No. 5 overall pick. They were among the youngest teams in the league last season, cast as a team that could be a force once all of their pups grew up.

After a disappointing first season overseeing the operation, Thibodeau grabbed a fully grown pit bull to toughen the team up.

Butler played for Thibodeau for four seasons in Chicago, developing from an unheralded, late-first round

draft pick into a perennial All-Star. The two strong-willed workaholics clashed on occasion during their time together and Butler said during the Olympics in Rio last summer that it was "love-hate" relationship.

But he also acknowledged that his appreciation for Thibodeau's hard-driving style increased as time went on, especially when the Bulls struggled in their first season under the more player-friendly Fred Hoiberg.

"They've come by their relationship honestly," Lee said. "They worked through a period to where they really came to learn what the other is about. ... They have a basis to work from, but things have

changed and they've changed and adapted. They will take the starting point that they have, but they have to build on it."

The Wolves drafted Arizona sharpshooter Lauri Markkanen for the Bulls at No. 7 and the Bulls took Creighton forward Justin Patton at No. 16 for the Wolves. Patton is a 6-foot-11 forward who was the Big East freshman of the year after averaging 12.9 points and 6.1 rebounds last season.

When Thibodeau was hired as team president and coach last summer, he quickly set his sights on bringing Butler to Minnesota. The two sides engaged on serious dis-

cussions on draft night last year, but couldn't close it.

LaVine was having a breakout third season in the league when he tore the ACL in his left knee in February. His rehabilitation has gone well, but the injury certainly complicated the Wolves' re-engaging Chicago on Butler. Adding to the difficulty was Dunn's underwhelming first year in Minnesota, which diminished his trade value.

With all that in play, the Wolves were forced to also offer up the No. 7 pick this season to push the deal over the top. But they did receive Chicago's first-round pick in return. The move, and the package they assembled to make it, signal an organization that is desperate to start winning.

Butler averaged career highs in points (23.9), rebounds (6.2) and assists (5.5) in his sixth season. He is also one of the league's top defenders, an absolute necessity for a young team that finished 26th in the league in defensive efficiency last season. He will turn 28 in September, right in the middle of his prime for a team in need of veteran leadership.

"The most important thing to me are the things he does every day, the way he practices, the things that he does in meetings, the way he prepares before a game, the things that he does for recovery," Thibodeau said. "He'll show our players a lot of the things that he's learned along the way."

The move also represents the first significant steps toward an overhaul for the Bulls. Despite a spirited effort, the Bulls were eliminated by the Boston Celtics in the first round of the Eastern Conference playoffs. Wade opted in for the final year of his contract, but that isn't stopping Chicago from pivoting to a new, younger nucleus that includes LaVine, Dunn, Markkanen and Denzel Valentine.

Now that Butler is gone, the 35-year-old Wade could become a buyout candidate as the Bulls go into rebuilding mode.

76ers take Fultz, Lakers grab Ball to start NBA draft

NEW YORK (AP)—Markelle Fultz, Lonzo Ball and the future of the NBA arrived Thursday night.

Jimmy Butler and Tom Thibodeau hope to rekindle their past.

Fultz and Ball led a record-setting run of one-and-dones in the NBA draft, which received a jolt early in the first round when the Chicago Bulls traded Butler to the Minnesota Timberwolves.

The Philadelphia 76ers took Fultz with the No. 1 pick and the Lakers followed by taking Ball, with the point guards from the Pac-12 Conference beginning a run of seven straight freshmen. Nine of the first 10 selections played just one season of college ball.

"Right now it's unbelievable really," Fultz said. "I mean, say you want to do something, and to go out and do it is unbelievable."

Thibodeau has enough young players in Minnesota and wanted a veteran like he had during his successful run coaching the Bulls. He found one in Butler, who the Wolves acquired along with the 16th overall pick for Zach LaVine, Kris Dunn and the No. 7 pick, which ended up being—what else?—another freshman, Arizona's Lauri Markkanen.

While that was being completed, the draft got off to a familiar start with the same top-four picks as last year: Philadelphia, the Lakers, Boston and Phoenix.

Fultz averaged 23.2 points last season, tops among freshmen, and added 5.9 assists and 5.7 rebounds per game, the only Division I player to reach those stats. He walked across the stage Thursday night at Barclays Center wearing orange sneakers made of basketballs.

The 76ers had the No. 1 pick for the second straight year after trading with the Boston Celtics on Monday. Now they add Fultz to a promising young core that includes Rookie of the Year finalists Joel Embiid and Dario Saric, plus Ben Simmons, the top pick from last year who sat out all season with a foot injury.

Fultz, who played just 25 games in college, said it was always his dream to be the top pick and wasn't bothered that Boston traded the chance to take him.

"In high school I told my trainer Keith I wanted to be the No. 1 player in the country and the No. 1 draft pick, so it was a goal I set out there, and that's what I was striving for," Fultz said.

Ball then got the wish he and his father, LaVar, wanted all along by staying in Los Angeles, where he starred last

season at UCLA. LaVar Ball had said his son would only play for the Lakers, and it was clear that would happen when Lonzo got a phone call with the Lakers on the clock.

As Lonzo walked on stage to meet Commissioner Adam Silver and put on a purple Lakers hat, LaVar put on a gold and purple Big Baller Brand hat, the company he has started.

"Tonight was supposed to be a good night. Definitely was, and now I'm just focused on playing," Lonzo Ball said. "Just want to get on the court."

The Celtics then took Duke's Jayson Tatum at No. 3 after moving down two spots in the trade with Philadelphia, drawing cheers from a large contingent of their fans at Barclays Center wearing green. The Suns took Josh Jackson of Kansas, the Sacramento Kings took Kentucky guard Frank Ntilikina at No. 8.

De'Aaron Fox at No. 5 and the run of freshmen continued when the Orlando Magic selected Jonathan Isaac.

Fox ended up in the same state as Ball, who he outplayed when Kentucky ousted UCLA in the NCAA Tournament.

"I mean, it's extremely gratifying for me to be in that top five, and we already knew that this was going to be a pretty tough draft and it was pretty loaded at the point guard position, and for me to be up there is just a blessing," Fox said.

Silver has talked about changing the NBA's limit, saying the current rule that American-born players must be 19 and a year out of high school, but teams seem just fine with the current system. The run of freshmen bettered the 2014 record of four straight first-year players to start the draft, finally ending when the New York Knicks took French guard Frank Ntilikina at No. 8.

The top 10 was rounded out with two more freshmen: Dennis Smith Jr. of North Carolina State to Dallas at No. 9, and Gonzaga's Zach Collins at No. 10 with the Kings' second pick, which was later dealt to Portland for a pair of picks. Last year's record of 14 freshmen fell when Brooklyn grabbed Jarrett Allen from Texas at No. 22, and there were 16 total among the 30 first-round picks - and just two seniors.

NBA champion Golden State and Cleveland didn't have a pick in the two-round draft, though the Warriors acquired the rights to second-rounder Jordan Bell from Chicago.

There have been a flurry of trades since the Warriors beat the Cavaliers in the NBA Finals, though most of the moves on draft night were minor. Things could heat up again in the coming days before free agency starts on July 1.

Olson, Brugman, Barreto hit 1st HRs, A's rout White Sox 10-2



CHICAGO

(AP)—Matt Olson hit his first two major league home runs, Jaycob Brugman and Franklin Barreto also launched their first career shots and the Oakland Athletics routed the Chicago White Sox 10-2 on Saturday.

Barreto homered in his big league debut. He joined Olson and Brugman in becoming the second trio of teammates to hit their first homers in the same game, the Elias Sports Bureau said. It also happened in 1914 with the Kansas City Packers of the Federal League — the rival circuit lasted a couple of seasons, and included many big leaguers.

Former White Sox ace Mark Buehrle had his No. 56 jersey retired in a pregame ceremony. After the 30-minute tribute ended, the A's roughed up James Shields (1-1).

Daniel Gossett (1-2) took advantage of an early 6-0 lead to win for the first time in three big league starts. He gave up two unearned runs in six innings.

White Sox manager Rick Renteria was ejected for the second straight game.

Orioles 8, Rays 3

In St. Petersburg, Florida, Dylan Bundy helped Baltimore avoid a dubious pitching record, throwing seven solid innings as the Orioles beat Tampa Bay.

The Orioles had given up at least five runs in 20 straight games, matching the major league mark set by the 1924 Philadelphia Phillies.

Bundy (8-6) allowed three runs and five hits in seven innings.

Jose Alvarado (0-3) walked the only batter he faced, Seth Smith, leading off the seventh. He was replaced by Jumbo Diaz, who gave up a two-run double to Mark Trumbo and Trey Mancini's two-run homer that put Baltimore ahead 7-3.

Nationals 18, Reds 3

In Washington, Michael Taylor homered twice among his four hits, Trea Turner went 5 for 5 and Washington romped.

Daniel Murphy had four RBIs for the Nationals. All of Turner's career-high five hits were singles including a pair of run-scoring hits.

Joe Ross (4-3) blanked the Reds until Patrick Kivlehan's pinch-hit home run in the sixth.

Homer Bailey (0-1) allowed eight runs and six hits with three walks in 1 2/3 innings in his season debut after shoulder surgery. Cincinnati has lost 13 of 14.

Rangers 8, Yankees 1

In New York, Austin Bibens-



Chicago White Sox starting pitcher James Shields delivers during the second inning of a baseball game against the Oakland Athletics Saturday, June 24, 2017, in Chicago. AP

Dirkx pitched seven dazzling innings in his first shot at the New York Yankees after 12 seasons in the minors, and Carlos Gomez homered for Texas.

Robinson Chirinos also went deep and Elvis Andrus had a pair of run-scoring hits for the Rangers, who rebounded quickly from a difficult defeat that ended after midnight the previous evening.

Bibens-Dirkx (3-0), a 32-year-old rookie promoted to the majors last month for the first time, gave up Aaron Judge's major league-leading 26th home run in his fourth big league start.

Luis Cessa (0-2) struck out eight in five innings.

Royals 3, Blue Jays 2

In Kansas City, Missouri, Jason Vargas became the first major league pitcher to reach 11 wins this season, pitching seven efficient innings to lead surging Kansas City over Toronto.

The Royals won for the 11th time in 13 games and moved over .500 for the first time this season at 37-36.

Vargas (11-3) allowed two runs on eight hits. Troy Tulowitzki and Pillar homered off him.

Kelvin Herrera pitched the ninth for his 18th save in 20 chances.

Alex Gordon hit a go-ahead triple in the seventh off Marco Estrada (4-6).

Lester (5-4) went seven innings, retiring 13 in a row after Realmuto's seventh homer of the year. Wade Davis completed the four-hitter with a 1-2-3 ninth for his 15th save.

The Cubs took the lead for good in the sixth against Nick Wittgren (1-1).

Mets 5, Giants 2

In San Francisco, Jacob deGrom pitched eight strong innings and Wilmer Flores homered as the New York Mets defeated San Francisco.

DeGrom (7-3) struck out seven and allowed one run while scattering four hits.

The Giants, who are on pace to lose more than 100 games for the first time since arriving on the West Coast, have dropped 11 of 12. Sam Dyson (0-1) took the loss.

Pirates 7, Cardinals 3

In St. Louis, Jordy Mercer and Josh Harrison homered and starter Gerrit Cole pitched six innings, lifting Pittsburgh over St. Louis.

Cole (6-6) extended his winning streak to three games, allowing five hits and one run with five strikeouts and two walks.

Lance Lynn (5-5) struggled for the second consecutive start.

Braves 3, Brewers 1

In Atlanta, Brandon Phillips homered for the third straight game, R.A. Dickey threw seven strong innings and Atlanta beat Milwaukee.

The Braves have won four straight and nine of 12.

Dickey (6-5) allowed one run in seven innings to improve to 5-1 at SunTrust Park. Jim Johnson got his 15th save, stopping the NL Central leaders in the ninth.

Phillips homered off Matt Garza (3-4).

Cubs 5, Marlins 3

In Miami, Jon Lester gave up a three-run homer to J.T. Realmuto in the first inning and then settled down to help the Chicago Cubs beat Miami.

Lester (5-4) went seven innings, retiring 13 in a row after Realmuto's seventh homer of the year. Wade Davis completed the four-hitter with a 1-2-3 ninth for his 15th save.

The Cubs took the lead for good in the sixth against Nick Wittgren (1-1).

Angels 6, Red Sox 3

In Boston, JC Ramirez rebounded from his shortest career start with six solid innings, Cameron Maybin doubled home a run and scored another and the Los Angeles Angels held off the Boston Red Sox.

Ramirez (7-5) allowed one run and four hits with five strikeouts after lasting just three innings and giving up five runs in his previous start.

Blake Parker struck out pinch-hitter Chris Young with the bases loaded for the final out for his first save of the season after Boston scored twice in the ninth.

David Price (2-2) allowed three runs — two earned — with five strikeouts and a walk

in six innings. Mitch Moreland hit a solo homer for the Red Sox, who lost for only the third time in their last 13 home games.

Red Sox manager John Farrell was ejected by third-base umpire and crew chief Bill Miller after Fernando Abad was called for a balk, scoring a run that made it 5-1 in the seventh.

Astros 5, Mariners 2

In Seattle, Josh Reddick homered, Brian McCann added a three-run double and Lance McCullers pitched into the sixth inning in his return from the disabled list to lift the Houston Astros over the Seattle Mariners.

McCullers (7-1), who had been sidelined with lower back discomfort, allowed one run on four hits in five-plus innings. He struck out eight and walked none in his first start since June 8.

Reddick staked the Astros to a 2-0 lead in the third with his eighth home run. George Springer singled to open and Reddick drove a 1-0 pitch from Sam Gaviglio (3-2) over the wall in center.

Seattle, which had won six straight, scored one in the ninth off Ken Giles on a double and three consecutive walks, but Carlos Ruiz struck out looking with the bases loaded.

Diamondbacks 9, Phillies 2

In Phoenix, Jake Lamb homered, Chris Herrmann drove in three runs and Daniel Descalso had three hits, leading the Arizona Diamondbacks past the Philadelphia Phillies.

The Diamondbacks broke open a one-run game with three runs in the sixth inning

and got another effective pitching performance from Robbie Ray (8-3), who allowed two runs and six hits through 6 1/3 innings. Ray is 6-0 over his last seven starts with a 1.31 ERA in that span. He had five strikeouts and four walks.

Phillies starter Ben Lively (1-2) hit a two-run home run for his first career RBIs, but gave up four earned runs and seven hits in 5 1/3 innings.

Dodgers 4, Rockies 0

In Los Angeles, Clayton Kershaw threw six innings and Joc Pederson kept the streaking Dodgers' power surge alive with a home run in a victory over the Colorado Rockies, Los Angeles' ninth consecutive win. The Dodgers have won 15 of their last 16 games and are the first National League team to reach the 50-win mark (50-26).

Pederson's solo home run in the third was his sixth of the year and pushed the Dodgers' streak to 16 consecutive games with at least one home run. It's the first time the Dodgers have reached that mark since 1960.

Kershaw (11-2) pitched out of a bases-loaded, one-out jam in the first inning then retired the next 13 Rockies. He allowed four hits and a walk, while striking out eight. The Dodgers have won his last 10 starts.

Tyler Chatwood (6-8) had control issues all night, walking eight in just 3 1/3 innings.

Padres 7, Tigers 3

In San Diego, pinch-hitter Hector Sanchez slugged a go-ahead two-run homer in the eighth inning, powering the Padres past Detroit and sending the Tigers to their eighth consecutive loss.

With the Padres trailing 3-2, Shane Greene (1-2) walked leadoff man Erick Aybar to start the eighth. Sanchez, a backup catcher who was batting for pitcher Kirby Yates, was hitting .087 in 23 at-bats when he slammed Greene's 0-1 pitch for his second homer of the season. Cory Spangenberg added a two-run single and Austin Hedges drove in another run on a squeeze bunt — both against Alex Wilson — in the five-run inning.

Greene was charged with four runs and two hits with two walks in just one-third of an inning.

Yates (2-1) threw a scoreless eighth to earn the win for the Padres.

Jordan Spieth birdies 18th to keep Travelers lead

CROMWELL, Conn. (AP)—Jordan Spieth continues to play just a little better than anyone else at the Travelers Championship.

The 23-year-old Texan closed with a 20-foot birdie putt for a 4-under 66 on Saturday, giving him a one-stroke lead for the third straight round at TPC River Highlands.

After predicting earlier that it would take a score of 16 under to win, the two-time major champion took a 12-under 198 total into the final round.

Boo Weekley was second after a 65. The 43-year-old Weekley, playing just in front of Spieth, birdied five of the last eight holes, basking in the chants of “Boooo! Boooo!” from the raucous gallery.



TRAVELERS CHAMPIONSHIP

Spieth bogeyed Nos. 13 and 14, but matched Weekley with three birdies on the final four holes, capping it with the final shot of the round from below the hole.

“It’s in the shadow,” Spieth said. “I’m looking to hit the putt at the right speed. If it goes in, great, if it doesn’t, so be it, tap it in. With a few feet to go it was going to have a chance and it curled right in the middle. That was a loud roar, and those are really fun to experience.”

Weekley is looking for his fourth tour title and first since 2013. The colorful Floridian said he’s been dealing with

personal issues, but declined to elaborate. His had a season-best tie for 37th at the Puerto Rico Open in March and has made just eight cuts in 21 events.

Spieth is looking for his 10th tour win and second this season after a victory in February at Pebble Beach.

Weekley acknowledged that makes for an odd final pairing Sunday.

“He loves to fish, so we’ve got a little in common there,” Weekley said. “So we can talk about that.”

Daniel Berger, looking for his second victory of the month, was three strokes back after a 66.

C.T. Pan (64), David Lingmerth (65) and Paul Casey (66) were 8 under.

Because of morning showers, the players went off in threesomes from both the first and 10th tees. But the breeze helped the greens quickly dry out and play faster than had been expected.

Pan, who went out just after the rain ended, and shot a bogey-free round. The 25-year old former University of Washington star is looking for his third top-10 finish this season and his first since finishing second at Torrey Pines in January.

“It wasn’t as windy, so I made birdies on three of my first four holes,” Pan said. “That really helped my mindset and keep

my momentum going.”

Spieth hit his first six fairways and got his first birdie of the day on the sixth hole, when he chipped in from 30 feet behind the green. He made another birdie on the next hole, before giving a shot back at No. 9. He repeated that pattern on the back nine, making birdies at 10 and 11 to go up by two strokes, then put his tee shot into the water at 13. He bogeyed that hole and 14.

But on 15, his chip from the greenside bunker landed inches from the hole and he had another birdie.

Spieth has a chance to join Phil Blackmar (1985) as the only players to win in their first start at the Connecticut event. He’s also trying to be-

come the first player to lead wire-to-wire alone in the event since Tim Norris in 1982 at Wethersfield. Peter Jacobsen had at least a share of the lead after every round in 2003.

Berger had just one bogey, at the 17th, but came back with the last of his five birdies on the final hole. He won in Memphis two weeks ago before missing the cut at the U.S. Open, which was won by his Florida State teammate, Brooks Koepka. Another former Seminole teammate, Chase Seifert, was in contention at 4 under after qualifying for the tournament Monday.

Rory McIlroy remained at even par. He’s been trying to find his short game this week and decided to switch Saturday from the putter he began using while at the U.S. Open. He spent time before his round on the practice green with several different putters before picking a new one.

SATO

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Silver Streak with proceeds from the fundraiser going to Maturana House of Prayer, according to DFS’ Ben Babauta. Organizers are expecting more runners will participate in next year’s race.

“We will have a bigger race next year because we will be celebrating the 25th anniversary of Silver Streak. We will also have more and bigger prizes,” Aldan-Pierce said.

Tribune Sports Scores

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE				
East Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
New York	40	.32	.556	—
Boston	41	33	.554	
Tampa Bay	40	37	.519	2 1/2
Baltimore	36	38	.486	5
Toronto	35	39	.473	6

Central Division				
Cleveland	39	34	.534	—
Minnesota	38	34	.528	1/2
Kansas City	37	36	.507	2
Chicago	32	41	.438	7
Detroit	32	42	.432	7 1/2

West Division				
Houston	51	25	.671	—
Seattle	39	38	.506	12 1/2
Los Angeles	39	39	.500	13
Texas	37	37	.500	13
Oakland	33	42	.440	17 1/2

NATIONAL LEAGUE				
East Division				
Washington	45	29	.608	—
Atlanta	36	38	.486	9
Miami	33	40	.452	11 1/2
New York	33	41	.446	12
Philadelphia	24	49	.329	20 1/2

Central Division				
Milwaukee	40	37	.519	—
Chicago	38	36	.514	1/2
Pittsburgh	35	40	.467	4
St. Louis	33	40	.452	5
Cincinnati	30	43	.411	8

West Division				
Los Angeles	50	26	.658	—
Arizona	47	28	.627	2 1/2
Colorado	47	30	.610	3 1/2
San Diego	31	44	.413	18 1/2
San Francisco	27	50	.351	23 1/2

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Chiefs sign Andy Reid to extension, part with GM John Dorsey



KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—Andy Reid and John Dorsey arrived with the Kansas City Chiefs within weeks of each other, the coach and general manager given the massive undertaking of turning around a 2-14 franchise.

Reid will head into Year 5 by himself. The Chiefs announced Thursday they had signed their coach to a contract ex-

tension, and then revealed less than an hour later that they parted ways with their GM. Those were massive decisions handed down by chairman Clark Hunt in a pair of statements on what is typically a quiet week in the offseason.

“My family and I have been very pleased by the success the franchise has sustained over the last four seasons under Coach Reid,” Hunt said. “He has already established himself as one of the best coaches in the league, and he is well on

fanned out by Norita.

Two more runs, courtesy of Vicente Camacho and Bing Nakamura, at the top of the last inning put the CNMI on top and the host kept the shaky lead and the victory when they stranded two Hong Kong runners at the bottom. Hong Kong’s Katto Toke and Deving Won were on first and third base with two outs and were stuck there when left-fielder Kyle Kapileo caught a fly from John Lo.

In the Senior League divi-

sion, Jonathan Aguon scored off a Jae Young II RBI single and Jake Caubudo stole home at the bottom of the seventh and last inning to lift Guam to a close victory against the CNMI.

The home team, which tied the match after five complete innings, 3-all, had a chance to break the deadlock when it had runners second and third base at the bottom of the sixth. However, Henry Aguon went down on a 6-3 putout play to leave Tyrese Camacho and Tindin Guerrero stranded and

give Guam the opportunity to take the lead at the top of the last inning.

Guam then managed to hold on to the lead when it forced the CNMI to a 1-2-3 at the bottom of the seventh with Young capping the game by striking out Leo Salalila.

Meanwhile, in other results in the opening day of the AS-PAC, defending World Series champions Chinese-Taipei crushed the Philippines, 19-0.

Chinese-Taipei needed only five innings to finish off

the Philippines, as the former broke the game wide open in the third inning after drilling eight runs for a 13-0 advantage. Chinese-Taipei was without a run in the first inning before recording five in the second and five more in the last two.

The World Series champions used two pitchers and allowed only two hits.

Games in the ASPAC continued last Saturday, while yesterday’s matches were suspended due to rain.

Hodges hopes to be back for next year’s race and if she makes it, she will try to come early to familiarize herself with the course and the weather.

“It was hot on my way back to the finish line and I started to get headaches,” said Hodges, who is based in California and first made a trip to the Philippines before arriving on Saipan last Thursday morning.

Hong Kong’s Leanne Szeto (2:22:18) and Ka Hung Tsang (2:25:50), and Saipan’s Emily Northrop (4:02:36) completed the list of pro finishers in the women’s field. In the men’s division, Dorovskikh and Miller were joined by South Korea’s Kaon Cho (2:21:31), the Philippines’ Ian Solana (2:22:53), and Saipan’s Nap Dizon (2:39:27).

RUNAWAY

From Page 28

swim leg, Dorovskikh left Miller as the former was first to hop on his bike and head north, while the latter was still fixing his shoes.

“I took a few more minutes in the swim-bike transition so Alex somehow got a good lead,” said Miller.

From a less than a minute lead, Dorovskikh reached the bike-run transition area about 5 minutes ahead of Miller. Dorovskikh finished the bike race, which had its turnaround point at Banzai Cliff, in 56:59—the fastest in the entire field. The Russian was also the only biker to complete the bike leg in less than an hour.

The Tagaman returnee went

on to ease his way to a first place finish in the weekend event after submitting 45:00 in the final leg of the race. The run portion of the course had participants heading up to the Chamolinian Utt in Garapan and back to the pavilion.

“It was a very good race. I had no problems with the swim and bike legs. In the run, the first part was OK because it rained, but on my way back it was hot,” Dorovskikh said.

Miller, who had splits times of 1:00:48 (bike) and 49:00, did not attempt to catch the Russian in the last part of the race as the Filipino pro had a few more competitions this year, including the XTERRA World Championships in Hawaii.

“I don’t want to take a big risk because I may re-injure

myself and won’t be able to do my remaining races this year,” said Miller, who is still recovering from a knee injury. “I am happy with my time and the way I raced today.”

2017 Asia Pacific Middle East Regional Tournament

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



The CNMI Junior, left, and Senior All-Star Teams listen to the remarks of CNMI District Administrator James Ada during the opening ceremony for the 2017 Asia Pacific Middle East Regional Tournament last Friday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.



Acting governor Arnold I Palacios prepares to throw the ceremonial pitch.



Hong Kong players make their way to the field.



Guam players stay at the field as the opening ceremony continues.



From left, Chinese-Taipei, the Philippine Junior League Team, and the Philippine Senior League Team line up waiting for the other squads to join them at the field.



Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang gets ready to swing, while Reps. J.P. Sablan and Angel Demapan serve as catcher and umpire, respectively.



CNMI District Administrator James Ada addresses the players and others present at the opening rites.



**Timberwolves
get All-Star
Jimmy Butler
from Bulls**

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28 MONDAY, JUNE 26, 2017

Saipan Tribune Sports

**Olson, Brugman,
Barreto hit 1st
HRs, A's rout
White Sox 10-2**

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Runaway winners in Tagaman

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Russia's Aleksandr Dorovskikh and Guam's Manami Iijima crossed the finish line of the Tagaman Triathlon way ahead of their competitors to rule the pro division of last Saturday's race.

Dorovski completed the 1.5-kilometer swim, 40K bike, and 10K run in 2:12:01, over six minutes ahead of the Phil-

ippines' Joe Miller (2:18:17) to take the top honors in the men's pro category. In the women's division, Iijima was

CNMI splits opening games



A CNMI Junior League All-Stars waits for a pitch during their game against Hong Kong in the 2017 Asia Pacific-Middle East Regional Tournament last Friday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI Senior and Junior All-Stars had mixed fortunes as they started their campaign in the 2017 Asia Pacific-Middle East Regional Tournament last Friday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.



The CNMI Senior All-Star Team bowed to Guam, 3-5, in the opening game of the World Series qualifier, while the host's Junior League All-Stars pulled off a 6-5 triumph over Hong Kong.

It was a come-from-behind victory for the CNMI

Junior All-Stars, as they once faced a 1-3 deficit after four complete innings.

Hong Kong scored three runs at the bottom of the third inning, while the Commonwealth's lone run came in the second inning with Joel Norita's single driving Thomas Agullo to home.

A Sean Rabauliman run off a passed ball at the top of the fifth moved the CNMI within 1, but Hong Kong countered with two runs at the bottom to gain some cushion, 5-2. However, that was the last time the visit-

See CNMI on Page 26



crowned the champion after clocking in at 2:12:52, more than eight minutes faster than the Philippines' Maria Hodges (2:21:04).

The Russian was the first

men's pro out of the water and 10th overall, posting 26:17. He was closely followed by Miller, which had a split time of 26:19. The

swim leg started in the waters off Kanoa Resort and had participants passing through World War II tanks before finishing the race in the wa-

ters off Minatchom Attdao Pavilion across the Oleai Sports Complex.

After the closely fought

See RUNAWAY on Page 26

Sato, Kohmen top Silver Streak



Kosuke Sato and Taya Kohmen were the top finishers in last Friday's 24th Annual Tom Picarro Memorial Fun Run.

Sato was first to round the seven-kilometer course that started and ended at the Chamolinian Utt in Garapan with a turnaround point near the Quartermaster Road after clocking in at 23:24. Kohmen was fourth overall, but the first female finisher as she checked in at the 29:14 mark. The men's and women's overall champions each received a watch with DFS Saipan president Marian Aldan-Pierce handing the prizes to the winners.

DFS Saipan/T Galleria, which organized the race that is held annually in honor of the company's former president Tom Picarro, also recognized the top finishers in seven age groups.

In the U12 division, Takeru Jim took the top honors in the boys division, while Caydince Masga was the winner in the girls. John Navarro and Nicole Loste ruled the 13 to 19 age group, while John Kim and Emily Qui prevailed in the 20 to 30 division.



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In the 31 to 40 category, Taylor Dunn led the men's finishers, while Christian Foo stood out in the women's. Ronald Villafría and Akana Imaya reigned supreme in the 41 to 50 division; Edmundo Bata and Amalia Harris topped the 51 to 60 age group;

and Paul Khang in the over 61 category. Each age group finishers received gifts from DFS Saipan/T Galleria, while other runners won pre-drawn raffle prizes.

Over 80 runners joined the

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